GEORGE PAL'S TECHNICOLOR PRODUCTION
RELEASED BY EAGLE LION FILMS

DESTINATION MOON

BLAZES A TRAIL INTO THE DEPTHS OF OUTER SPACE

10¢

A Fawcett Publication

FOUR MEN ROCKET INTO THE UNKNOWN
in
DESTINATION MOON
GEORGE PAL'S TECHNICOLOR PRODUCTION
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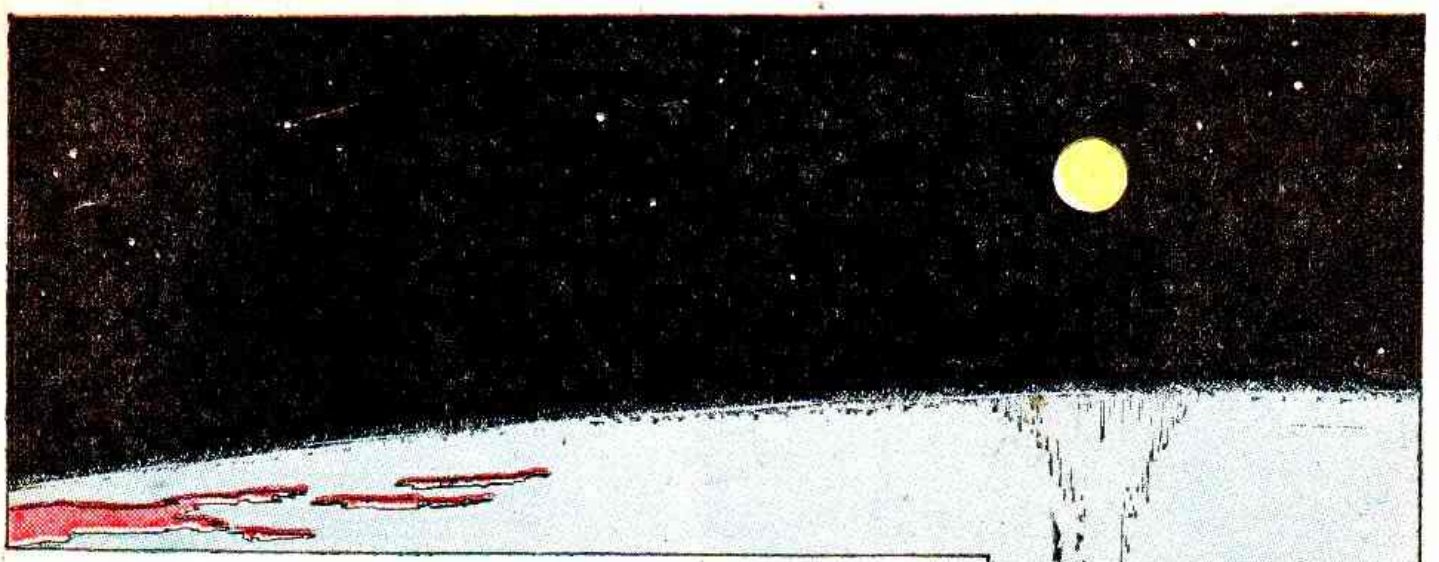


DESTINATION MOON

A GEORGE PAL PRODUCTION

COLOR BY
TECHNICOLOR

DIRECTED BY
IRVING PICHEL

SCREENPLAY BY
RIP VAN RONKEL, ROBERT HEINLEIN and JAMES O'HANLON

CAST OF CHARACTERS

WARNER ANDERSON.....Dr. Charles Cargraves

JOHN ARCHER.....Jim Barnes

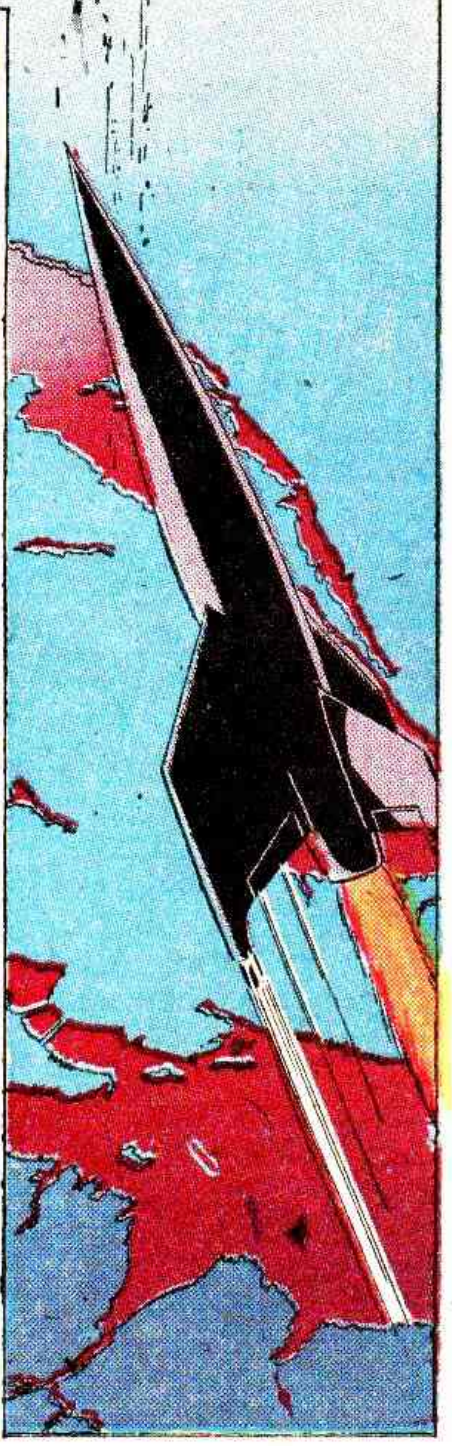
TOM POWERS.....General Thayer

DICK WESSON.....Joe Sweeney

ERIN O'BRIEN MOORE.....Emily Cargraves

AN ADAPTATION OF

AN EAGLE LION RELEASE

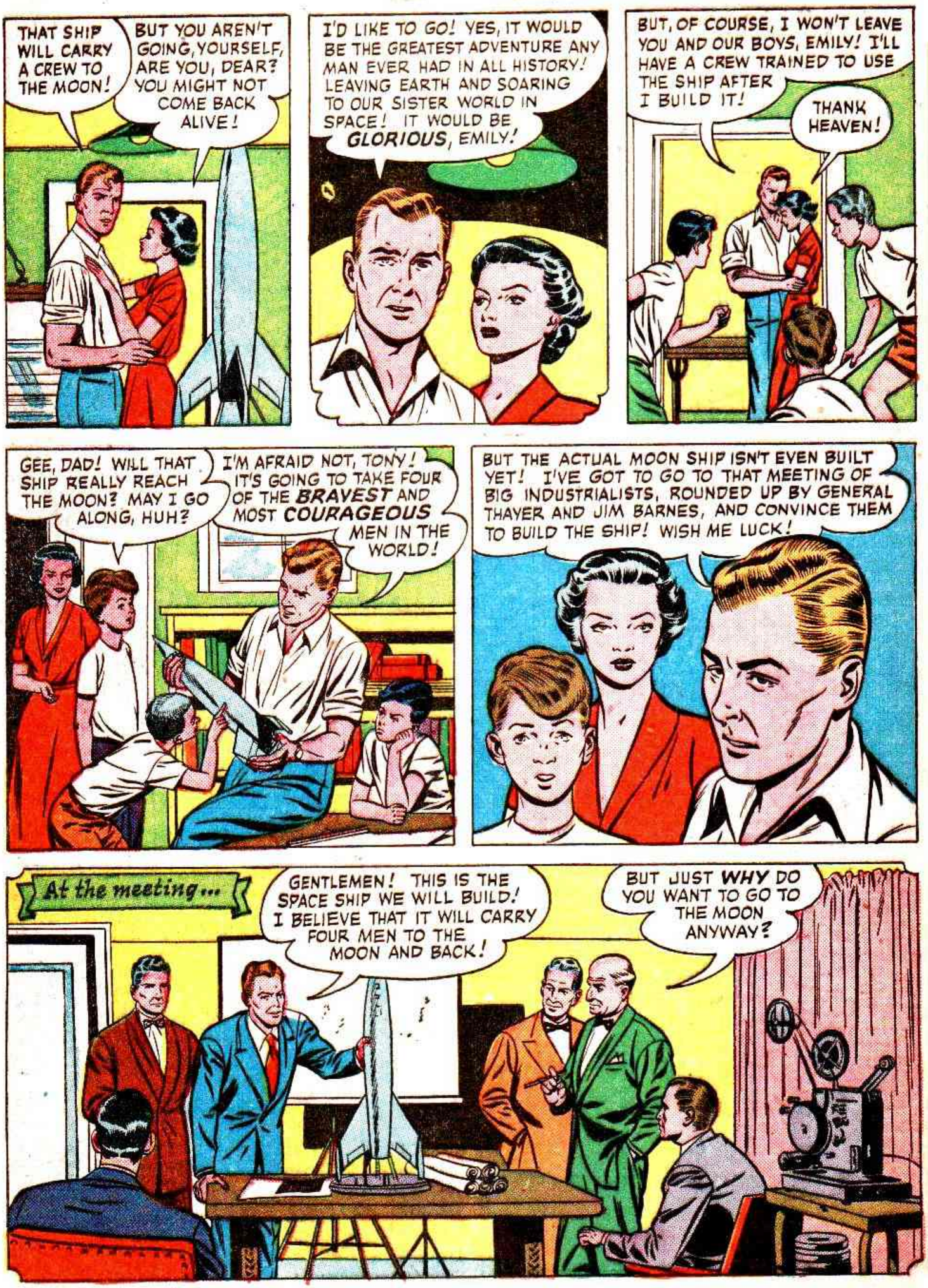


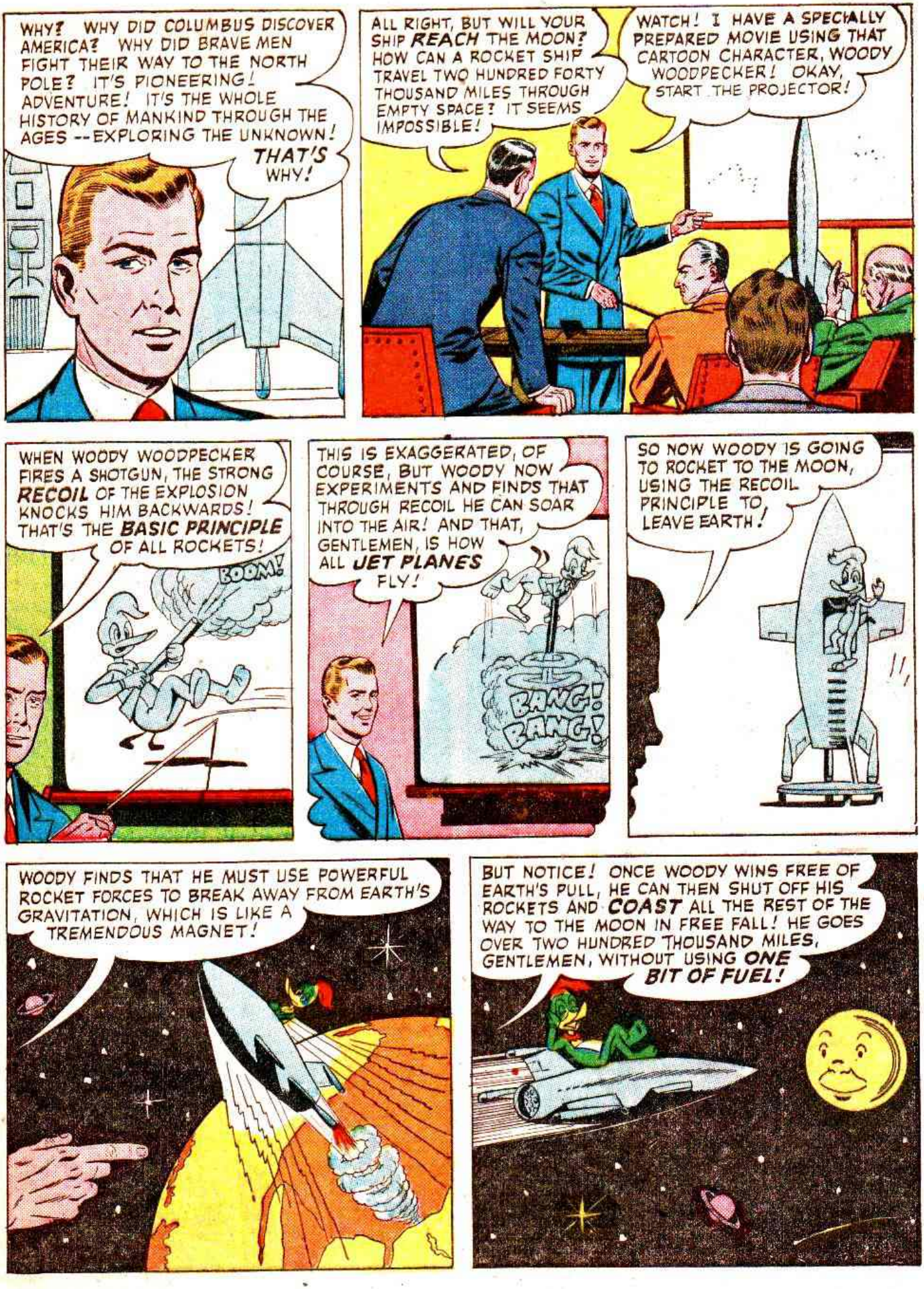
Destination MOON
IN this day of wondrous science, we have jet planes that exceed the speed of fleet sound itself! We have rockets that pierce the sky for hundreds of miles! And we have atomic energy at our fingertips, a giant of power!
But what is in store for mankind tomorrow? Will he soon soar away from Earth into the limitless reaches of outer space? Four courageous men attempt to answer this thrilling question as they blaze an interplanetary trail, rocketing into the unknown with... Destination MOON!

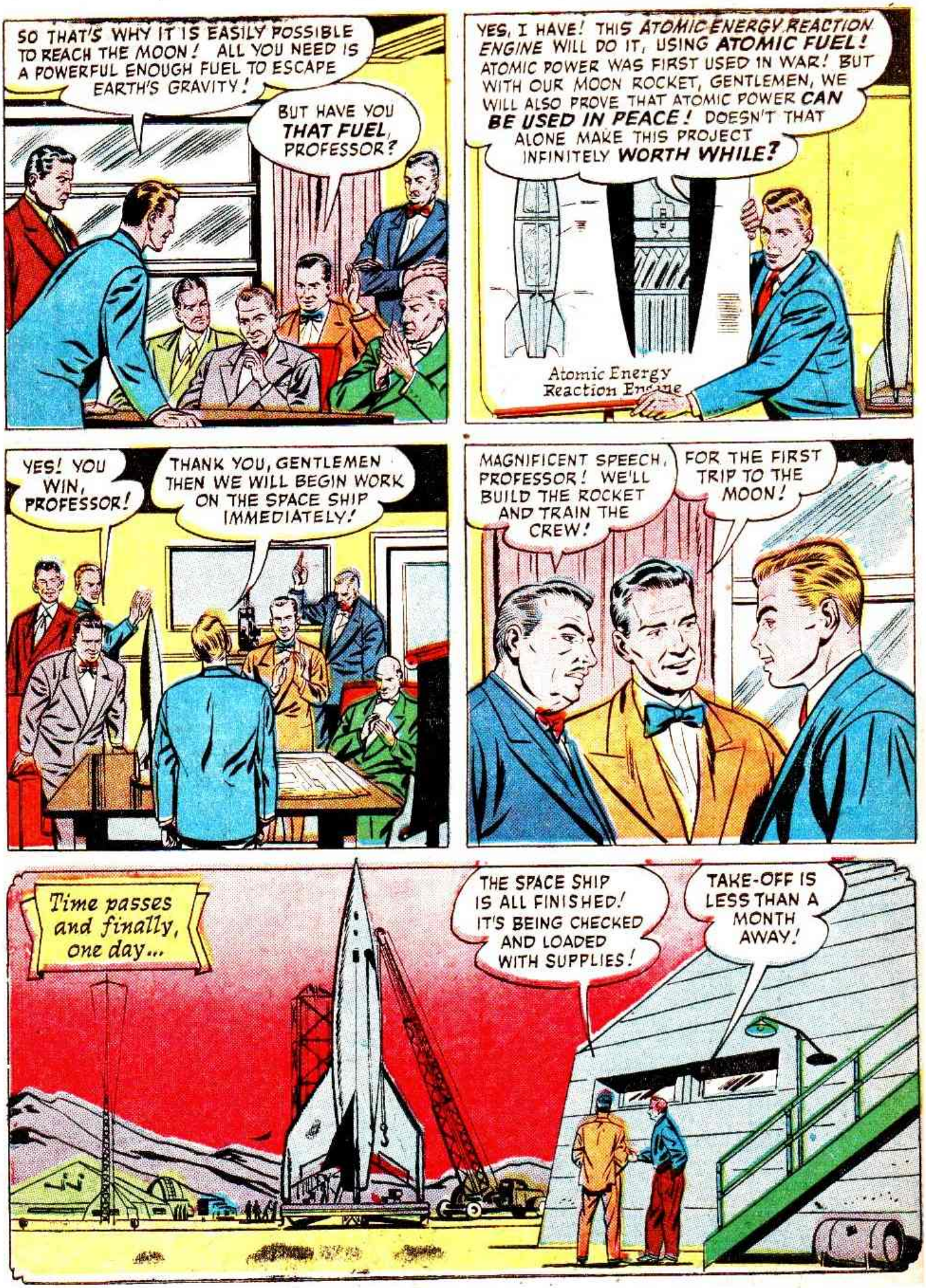
Somewhere in a barren western desert...
A DETOUR?
WARNING! CLOSED AREA ALL TRAFFIC PROHIBITED! BY ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY
YES, SIR! THE ARMY IS TRYING OUT A NEW ROCKET EXPERIMENT IN THIS AREA TONIGHT! SORRY, BUT YOU CAN'T GO IN!
Within the forbidden area, all is ready!
FIRING TIME IN TWO MINUTES! STAND BY!
WE'RE SAFE IN THIS CONCRETE OBSERVATION POST, EVEN IF THE ROCKET EXPLODES! BUT LET'S HOPE OUR SPACE SATELLITE ROCKET SUCCEEDS IN REACHING AN ALTITUDE OF TWELVE THOUSAND MILES ABOVE EARTH!
Inside the blockhouse, all is tense as the zero moment approaches!
ONE MINUTE TO GO! 59 SECONDS -- 58- 57...!
Two men are most anxious of all -- Professor Charles Cargraves, eminent scientist, and General Thayer, retired Army officer!
YOU DESIGNED AND BUILT THE ROCKET, PROFESSOR CARGRAVES! YOU'RE THE FOREMOST LIVING ROCKET EXPERT! I'M GLAD I HAD YOU TO HELP ME!
42 SECONDS... 41 -- 40 -- 39...!

BUT YOU CONCEIVED THE ORIGINAL IDEA, GENERAL THAYER! FOR YEARS YOU TOLD THE ARMY BRASS-HATS THAT A ROCKET SATELLITE COULD BE SENT UP TO CIRCLE EARTH! THEY NOT ONLY IGNORED YOU, BUT RETIRED YOU! WE'LL PROVE YOU WERE RIGHT!
...24 SECONDS -23-22-21-20...!
But there is one other man vitally concerned in the thrilling project--Joe Sweeney of Brooklyn, U.S.A.!
I'M THE GUY WHAT PULLS THE SWITCH AND MAKES THE ROCKET GO! BOY, WAIT'LL THEY HEAR OF THIS BACK IN BROOKLYN! I'LL BE AS FAMOUS AS THE DODGERS!
...11-10-9-8-7...!
Slow seconds drag to their final climax!
...4-3-2-FIRE!
RIGHT ON THE NOSE!
BZZZZZT
THERE SHE GOES!
BROARRRR!
But suddenly...
BOOM!
THE ROCKET EXPLODED!
Later...
WE FAILED, PROFESSOR! FAILED!
BUT WE'LL TRY AGAIN, GENERAL!
WILL WE? WHERE WILL WE GET THE MONEY AND BACKING, PROFESSOR? I WON'T BE ABLE TO WHEEDLE ANOTHER APPROPRIATION OUT OF CONGRESS, NOT AFTER THIS FAILURE!
PRIVATE INDUSTRY WILL BACK US! YOU WORK THAT ANGLE WHILE I DESIGN A BETTER ROCKET! WE'RE NOT LICKED YET!

HOW D'YOU LIKE THAT? THEIR ROCKET JUST WENT BLOOEY IN FRONT OF THEIR EYES, BUT THEIR COOKING UP ANOTHER ONE ALREADY! THOSE TWO GUYS JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN THE PITCHER HAS STRUCK 'EM OUT!
--AND OUR NEXT ROCKET WILL BE AIMED FOR THE MOON!
RIGHT, PROFESSOR! THAT'S OUR GOAL--THE MOON!
THE M-MOON? OMIGOSH! THEY'VE GONE STARK, RAVING-MAD! THEY WANT TO SEND A ROCKET TO THE MOON, NO LESS! WHAT CRAZY DREAMERS!
But the dream comes true as General Thayer does his part, visiting Jim Barnes, a young industrialist!
I TELL YOU, BARNES, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US! SOMEBODY HAS TO REACH THE MOON FIRST, AND IT HAD BETTER BE AMERICA! I KNOW! NEED I SAY MORE?
BUT---! I'M AN ARMY MAN!
THIS IS FOR THE FUTURE OF AMERICA ITSELF, IN PEACE OR WAR!
WELL, IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, HOW CAN I REFUSE? YOU WIN!
AND I'LL ROUND UP A DOZEN MORE BACKERS FOR YOU! NOW I'M EXCITED MYSELF!
GOOD! CALL THEM TO A MEETING IN A WEEK, TO SEE THE MODEL OF PROFESSOR CARGRAVES' SPACE SHIP!
Meanwhile, at the home of the scientist...
YOU WORKED ALL NIGHT AGAIN, DEAR!
IT'S DONE! EMILY, IT'S DONE!


THAT SHIP WILL CARRY A CREW TO THE MOON!
BUT YOU AREN'T GOING, YOURSELF, ARE YOU, DEAR? YOU MIGHT NOT COME BACK ALIVE!
I'D LIKE TO GO! YES, IT WOULD BE THE GREATEST ADVENTURE ANY MAN EVER HAD IN ALL HISTORY! LEAVING EARTH AND SOARING TO OUR SISTER WORLD IN SPACE! IT WOULD BE GLORIOUS, EMILY!
BUT, OF COURSE, I WON'T LEAVE YOU AND OUR BOYS, EMILY! I'LL HAVE A CREW TRAINED TO USE THE SHIP AFTER I BUILD IT!
THANK HEAVEN!
GEE, DAD! WILL THAT SHIP REALLY REACH THE MOON? MAY I GO ALONG, HUH?
I'M AFRAID NOT, TONY! IT'S GOING TO TAKE FOUR OF THE BRAVEST AND MOST COURAGEOUS MEN IN THE WORLD!
BUT THE ACTUAL MOON SHIP ISN'T EVEN BUILT YET! I'VE GOT TO GO TO THAT MEETING OF BIG INDUSTRIALISTS, ROUNDED UP BY GENERAL THAYER AND JIM BARNES, AND CONVINCE THEM TO BUILD THE SHIP! WISH ME LUCK!
At the meeting...
GENTLEMEN! THIS IS THE SPACE SHIP WE WILL BUILD! I BELIEVE THAT IT WILL CARRY FOUR MEN TO THE MOON AND BACK!
BUT JUST WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE MOON ANYWAY?

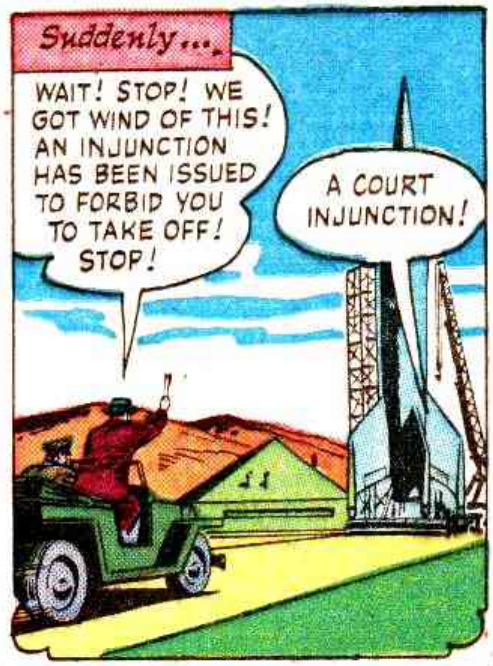

WHY? WHY DID COLUMBUS DISCOVER AMERICA? WHY DID BRAVE MEN FIGHT THEIR WAY TO THE NORTH POLE? IT'S PIONEERING! ADVENTURE! IT'S THE WHOLE HISTORY OF MANKIND THROUGH THE AGES --EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN!
THAT'S WHY!
ALL RIGHT, BUT WILL YOUR SHIP REACH THE MOON? HOW CAN A ROCKET SHIP TRAVEL TWO HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND MILES THROUGH EMPTY SPACE? IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE!
WATCH! I HAVE A SPECIALLY PREPARED MOVIE USING THAT CARTOON CHARACTER, WOODY WOODPECKER! OKAY, START THE PROJECTOR!
WHEN WOODY WOODPECKER FIRES A SHOTGUN, THE STRONG RECOIL OF THE EXPLOSION KNOCKS HIM BACKWARDS! THAT'S THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF ALL ROCKETS!
BOOM!
THIS IS EXAGGERATED, OF COURSE, BUT WOODY NOW EXPERIMENTS AND FINDS THAT THROUGH RECOIL HE CAN SOAR INTO THE AIR! AND THAT, GENTLEMEN, IS HOW ALL JET PLANES FLY!
BANG! BANG!
SO NOW WOODY IS GOING TO ROCKET TO THE MOON, USING THE RECOIL PRINCIPLE TO LEAVE EARTH!
WOODY FINDS THAT HE MUST USE POWERFUL ROCKET FORCES TO BREAK AWAY FROM EARTH'S GRAVITATION, WHICH IS LIKE A TREMENDOUS MAGNET!
BUT NOTICE! ONCE WOODY WINS FREE OF EARTH'S PULL, HE CAN THEN SHUT OFF HIS ROCKETS AND COAST ALL THE REST OF THE WAY TO THE MOON IN FREE FALL! HE GOES OVER TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND MILES, GENTLEMEN, WITHOUT USING ONE BIT OF FUEL!


SO THAT'S WHY IT IS EASILY POSSIBLE TO REACH THE MOON! ALL YOU NEED IS A POWERFUL ENOUGH FUEL TO ESCAPE EARTH'S GRAVITY!
BUT HAVE YOU THAT FUEL, PROFESSOR?
YES, I HAVE! THIS ATOMIC ENERGY REACTION ENGINE WILL DO IT, USING ATOMIC FUEL! ATOMIC POWER WAS FIRST USED IN WAR! BUT WITH OUR MOON ROCKET, GENTLEMEN, WE WILL ALSO PROVE THAT ATOMIC POWER CAN BE USED IN PEACE! DOESN'T THAT ALONE MAKE THIS PROJECT INFINITELY WORTH WHILE?
Atomic Energy Reaction Engine
YES! YOU WIN, PROFESSOR!
THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN THEN WE WILL BEGIN WORK ON THE SPACE SHIP IMMEDIATELY!
MAGNIFICENT SPEECH, PROFESSOR! WE'LL BUILD THE ROCKET AND TRAIN THE CREW!
FOR THE FIRST TRIP TO THE MOON!
Time passes and finally, one day...
THE SPACE SHIP IS ALL FINISHED! IT'S BEING CHECKED AND LOADED WITH SUPPLIES!
TAKE-OFF IS LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY!

PROFESSOR CARGRAVES! YOU LOOK WORRIED! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
BAD NEWS, I'M AFRAID! THIS LETTER JUST CAME FROM WASHINGTON, D. C.!
THE COMMISSION OF ROCKET EXPERIMENTATION HAS JUST DENIED OUR REQUEST TO SHOOT OFF THIS ROCKET! SINCE IT USES ATOMIC FUEL, THEY'RE AFRAID OF A BIG ATOMIC EXPLOSION IF IT FAILS!
THEN WE'RE STOPPED COLD!
WAIT! WHY NOT SEND IT OFF NOW, BEFORE THEY CAN REALLY STOP US! THERE'S NO ACTUAL LAW SAYING WE CAN'T GO! WE COULD LEAVE AT DAWN SEVENTEEN HOURS FROM NOW!
IT'S CRAZY, BARNES! WE HAVE NO TRAINED CREW READY...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH US? THE GENERAL AND I CAN HANDLE THE CONTROLS! YOU CAN RUN THE ENGINE, PROFESSOR! AND JIM SWEENEY IS OUR EXPERT COMMUNICATIONS MAN!
I'M WILLING!
SO AM I! THEY WON'T STOP US, AFTER WE'VE COME THIS FAR!
GREAT! WE'LL TAKE OFF AT DAWN — FOR THE MOON!
I'D BETTER INFORM JOE SWEENEY OF THE NEWS...
HI, GENERAL! WHAT'S UP? YOU LOOK AS EXCITED AS A COLLISION!
JOE, WE'RE TAKING OFF AT DAWN! CHANGE OF PLANS! AND WE PICKED YOU AS THE FOURTH MAN TO GO TO THE MOON!
OH, IS THAT ALL? SO I'M GOING TO THE MOON!

TO THE MOON!!!???
DID I HEAR YOU SAY YOU PICKED ME TO GO TO THE MOON WITH YOU?
LET ME OUTTA HERE! HELP! I'M NOT GOING TO THE MOON! THINK I'M CRAZY OR SOMETHING?
EASY, JOE! LISTEN! DO YOU BELIEVE THIS SHIP WILL GET TO THE MOON?
OF COURSE NOT! I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU GUYS FOR THE PAST MONTH THAT NO ENGINE IS GONNA LIFT THIS BIG BABY ONE INCH OFF THE GROUND!
ALL RIGHT, THEN! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE? IF THE SHIP WON'T BUDGE, YOU'RE SAFE! YOU CAN LAUGH AT US THEN, SEE?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! I KNOW THE SHIP WON'T MOVE, SO I'LL JOIN YOUR CREW JUST FOR LAUGHS! THE TAKE-OFF WILL BE A FIZZLE! HAW! HAW!
IT'S AGREED THEN THAT YOU'LL COME ALONG!
HOLY SMOKE! I'M PART OF THE CREW! SOMETHING TELLS ME GENERAL THAYER PULLED A SLICK ONE ON ME, LIKE SELLING ME THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE! WELL, I'VE GOT TO GO THROUGH WITH IT NOW!
Meanwhile, as a busy night wears away in preparation, Professor Cargraves has his own troubles!
BUT, EMILY, I HAVE TO GO! THIS IS BIGGER THAN YOU OR ME OR ANYTHING!
ALL RIGHT, DEAR! OF COURSE I WON'T STOP YOU! BUT PLEASE COME BACK!
PLEASE COME BACK!

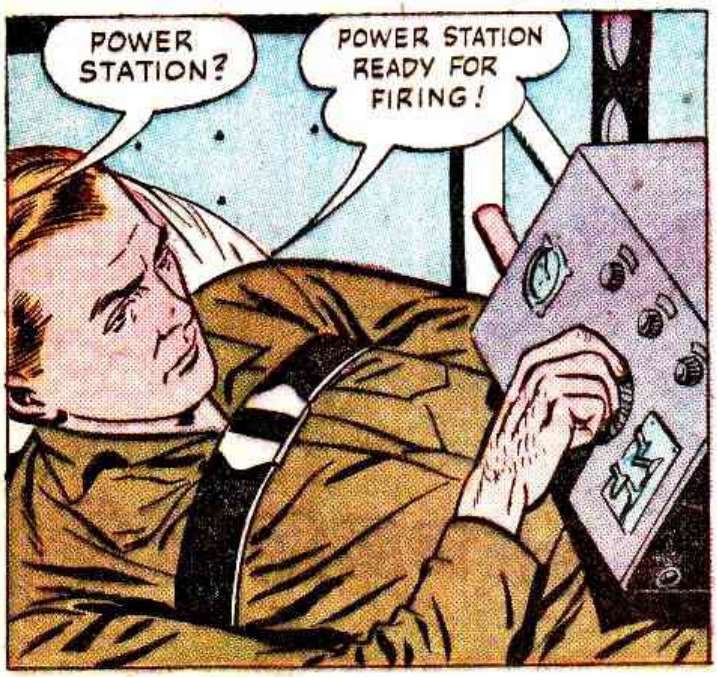
The crucial hour approaches and four brave men are ready!
SHIP'S ALL CHECKED AND LOADED! DAWN IN FIVE MINUTES! UP INTO THE HATCH!

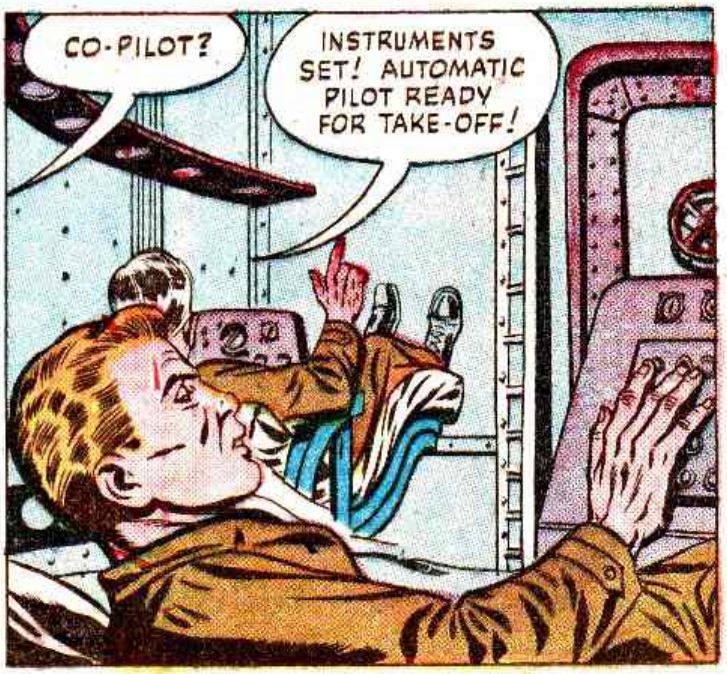

Suddenly...
WAIT! STOP! WE GOT WIND OF THIS! AN INJUNCTION HAS BEEN ISSUED TO FORBID YOU TO TAKE OFF! STOP!
A COURT INJUNCTION!

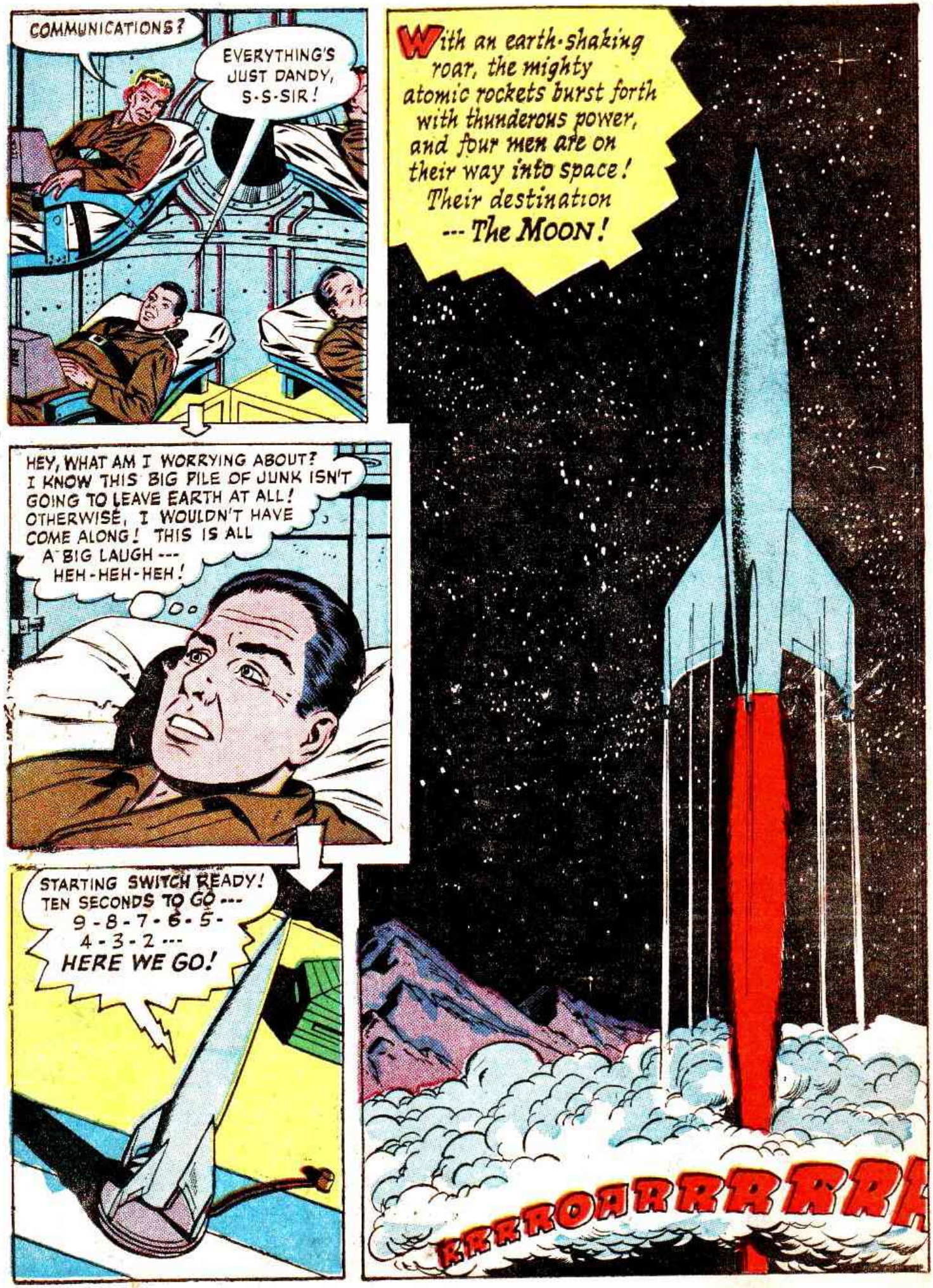
BUT NOTHING WILL STOP US NOW! BEFORE THAT BAILIFF CAN REACH US AND OFFICIALLY SERVE HIS INJUNCTION, WE CAN GET IN THE SHIP!
ELEVATOR ALOFT! HURRY!

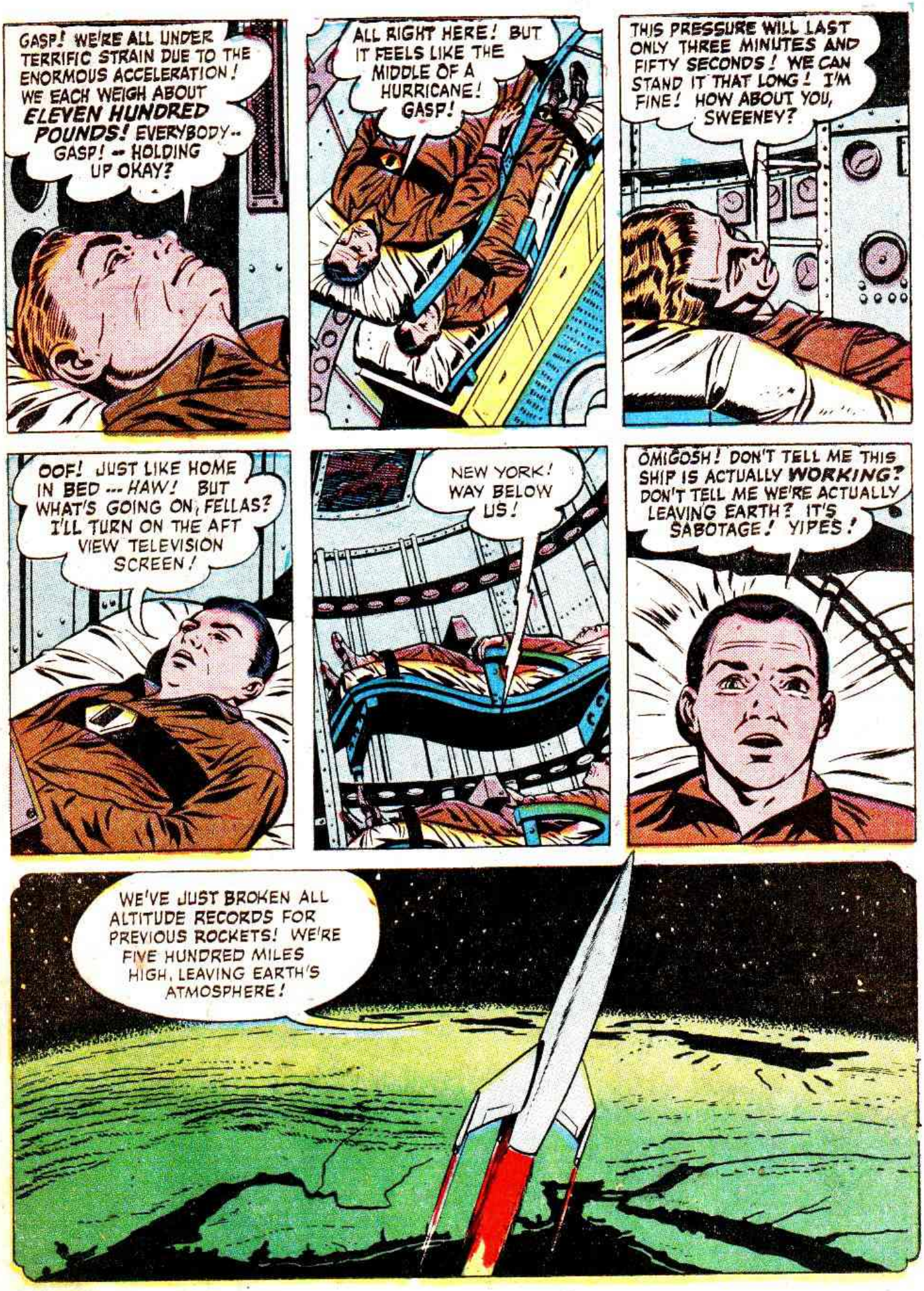
STOP! --UH---!
CLEAR AWAY, ON YOUR LIFE! THE ROCKETS WILL BLAST OUT IN ONE MINUTE!

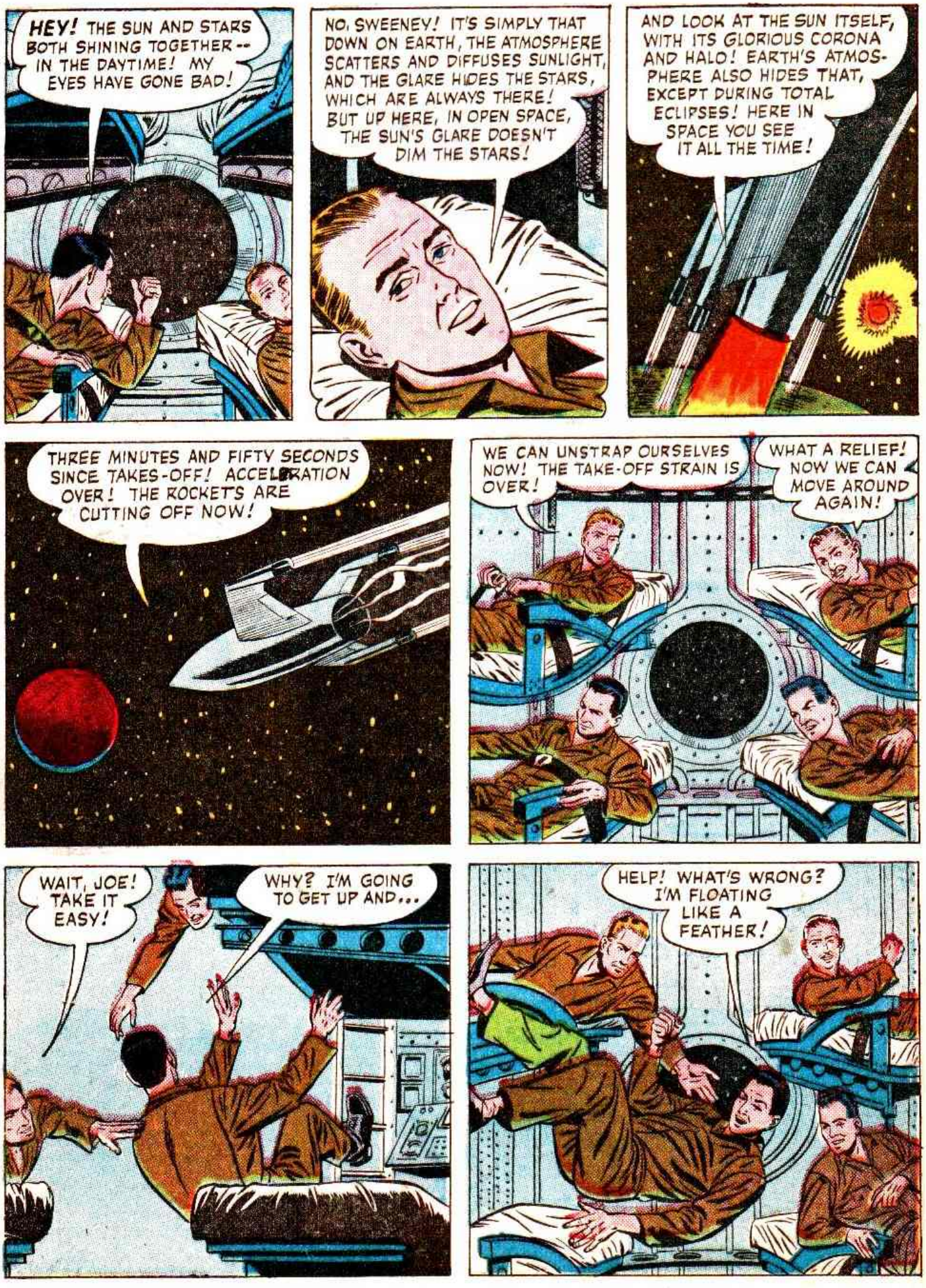
Soon, in the ship...
EVERYBODY SETTLED IN HIS COMPRESSION COUCH? THIRTY SECONDS TO GO!


POWER STATION?
POWER STATION READY FOR FIRING!

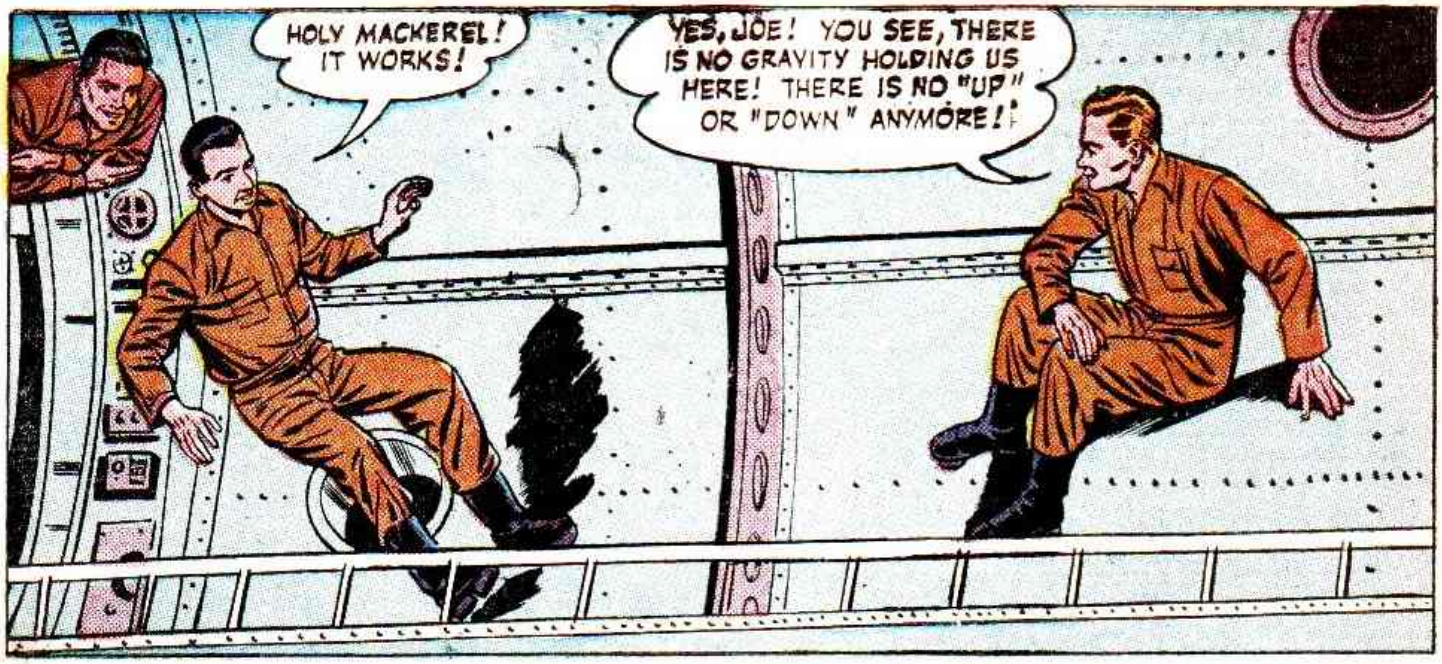

CO-PILOT?
INSTRUMENTS SET! AUTOMATIC PILOT READY FOR TAKE-OFF!


COMMUNICATIONS?
EVERYTHING'S JUST DANDY, S-S-SIR!
With an earth-shaking roar, the mighty atomic rockets burst forth with thunderous power, and four men are on their way into space! Their destination --- The MOON!
HEY, WHAT AM I WORRYING ABOUT? I KNOW THIS BIG PILE OF JUNK ISN'T GOING TO LEAVE EARTH AT ALL! OTHERWISE, I WOULDN'T HAVE COME ALONG! THIS IS ALL A BIG LAUGH --- HEH-HEH-HEH!
STARTING SWITCH READY! TEN SECONDS TO GO --- 9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2 --- HERE WE GO!
KRRROARRRRRRR


GASP! WE'RE ALL UNDER TERRIFIC STRAIN DUE TO THE ENORMOUS ACCELERATION! WE EACH WEIGH ABOUT ELEVEN HUNDRED POUNDS! EVERYBODY-- GASP! -- HOLDING UP OKAY?
ALL RIGHT HERE! BUT IT FEELS LIKE THE MIDDLE OF A HURRICANE! GASP!
THIS PRESSURE WILL LAST ONLY THREE MINUTES AND FIFTY SECONDS! WE CAN STAND IT THAT LONG! I'M FINE! HOW ABOUT YOU, SWEENEY?
OOF! JUST LIKE HOME IN BED --- HAW! BUT WHAT'S GOING ON, FELLAS? I'LL TURN ON THE AFT VIEW TELEVISION SCREEN!
NEW YORK! WAY BELOW US!
OMIGOSH! DON'T TELL ME THIS SHIP IS ACTUALLY WORKING? DON'T TELL ME WE'RE ACTUALLY LEAVING EARTH? IT'S SABOTAGE! YIPES!
WE'VE JUST BROKEN ALL ALTITUDE RECORDS FOR PREVIOUS ROCKETS! WE'RE FIVE HUNDRED MILES HIGH, LEAVING EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!


HEY! THE SUN AND STARS BOTH SHINING TOGETHER -- IN THE DAYTIME! MY EYES HAVE GONE BAD!
NO, SWEENEY! IT'S SIMPLY THAT DOWN ON EARTH, THE ATMOSPHERE SCATTERS AND DIFFUSES SUNLIGHT, AND THE GLARE HIDES THE STARS, WHICH ARE ALWAYS THERE! BUT UP HERE, IN OPEN SPACE, THE SUN'S GLARE DOESN'T DIM THE STARS!
AND LOOK AT THE SUN ITSELF, WITH ITS GLORIOUS CORONA AND HALO! EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE ALSO HIDES THAT, EXCEPT DURING TOTAL ECLIPSES! HERE IN SPACE YOU SEE IT ALL THE TIME!
THREE MINUTES AND FIFTY SECONDS SINCE TAKES-OFF! ACCELERATION OVER! THE ROCKETS ARE CUTTING OFF NOW!
WE CAN UNSTRAP OURSELVES NOW! THE TAKE-OFF STRAIN IS OVER!
WHAT A RELIEF! NOW WE CAN MOVE AROUND AGAIN!
WAIT, JOE! TAKE IT EASY!
WHY? I'M GOING TO GET UP AND...
HELP! WHAT'S WRONG? I'M FLOATING LIKE A FEATHER!

WILL YOU GUYS PLEASE STOP GIVING ME THE HORSE LAUGH AND EXPLAIN WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT? WHY AM I FLOATING?
HA! HA!
CAN'T HELP LAUGHING! HAW! HAW!
BECAUSE WE'RE IN FREE FALL, JOE! WE'RE FALLING THROUGH SPACE AT THE SAME RATE OF SPEED THE SHIP IS! IT'S LIKE WHEN AN ELEVATOR SUDDENLY DROPS -- YOU FEEL WEIGHTLESS! AND WE'RE SO FAR FROM EARTH'S GRAVITATION THAT IT NO LONGER GRIPS US!
HERE! GRAB MY HAND! I'LL HAVE TO PULL YOU DOWN!
LIKE A RUNAWAY BALLOON!
THANKS! I'M GOING TO HOLD ON TIGHT AFTER THIS!
YOU WON'T HAVE TO, JOE! PUT ON THESE MAGNETIC SHOES! THEY'LL HOLD YOU TO THE STEEL FLOOR BY MAGNETISM!
AND NOT ONLY TO THE FLOOR, JOE! TAKE MY HAND! LET'S TAKE A STROLL UP THE WALL AND CEILING!
HUH? YOU MUST BE JOKING!


HOLY MACKEREL! IT WORKS!
YES, JOE! YOU SEE, THERE IS NO GRAVITY HOLDING US HERE! THERE IS NO "UP" OR "DOWN" ANYMORE!

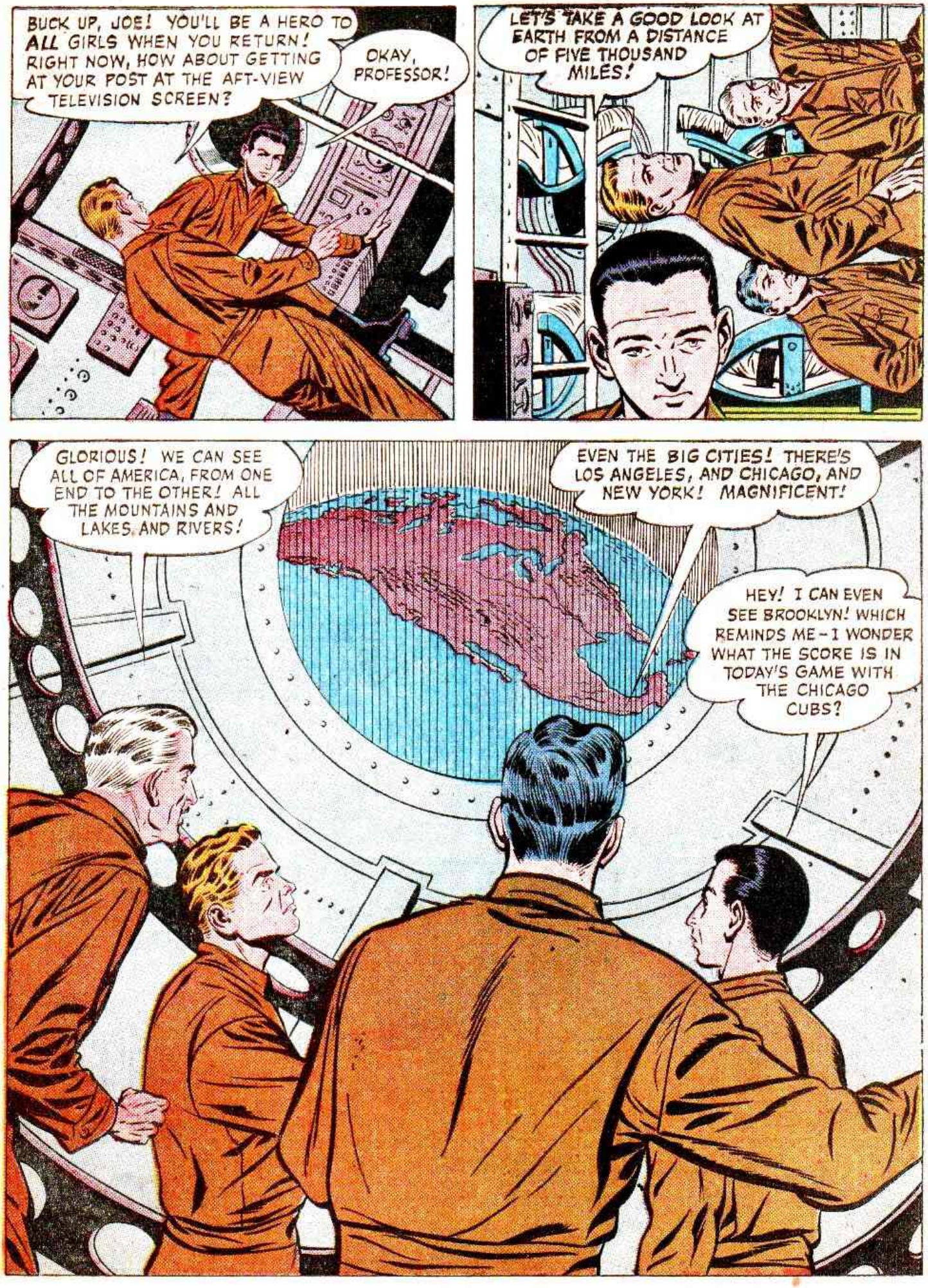
IN FACT, LET'S HAVE A STROLL ACROSS THE CEILING, TOO!
NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING! JUST CALL ME THE HUMAN FLY!

HEY! IS THAT EARTH?
YES, WE'RE OVER TWO THOUSAND MILES FROM IT NOW, ON OUR WAY TO THE MOON!

For the first time, Joe Sweeney realizes the full implication of what has occurred in the past few minutes!
YOU MEAN THIS BLASTED SHIP CAN REALLY GO TO THE MOON? BUT I DON'T WANT TO GO! THANKS FOR THE RIDE, BUT LET ME OUT!

DON'T BE A FOOL, JOE! YOU HAVE TO FINISH THE TRIP NOW!
AND JUST THINK, JOE! YOU'LL BE A HERO!

WHO ASKED TO BE A HERO? AND I HAD A DATE TONIGHT WITH A CUTE GIRL, TOO! WILL SHE BE SORE WHEN SHE HEARS I DITCHED HER JUST TO GO TO THE OLD MOON!


BUCK UP, JOE! YOU'LL BE A HERO TO ALL GIRLS WHEN YOU RETURN! RIGHT NOW, HOW ABOUT GETTING AT YOUR POST AT THE AFT-VIEW TELEVISION SCREEN?
OKAY, PROFESSOR!
LET'S TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT EARTH FROM A DISTANCE OF FIVE THOUSAND MILES!
GLORIOUS! WE CAN SEE ALL OF AMERICA, FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER! ALL THE MOUNTAINS AND LAKES AND RIVERS!
EVEN THE BIG CITIES! THERE'S LOS ANGELES, AND CHICAGO, AND NEW YORK! MAGNIFICENT!
HEY! I CAN EVEN SEE BROOKLYN! WHICH REMINDS ME - I WONDER WHAT THE SCORE IS IN TODAY'S GAME WITH THE CHICAGO CUBS?

Suddenly...
OHHHH! I'M FEELING DIZZY! I'M SEASICK!
NOT SEASICK! THIS IS SPACE SICKNESS -- OR THE LACK OF GRAVITY! IT'S LIKE RIDING A FAST ELEVATOR DOWN FOR HOURS!

I HAVE SOME SPECIAL PILLS! TAKE ONE, JOE...
OOPS! MY FINGERS SLIPPED! GIVE ME ANOTHER ONE, PROFESSOR!

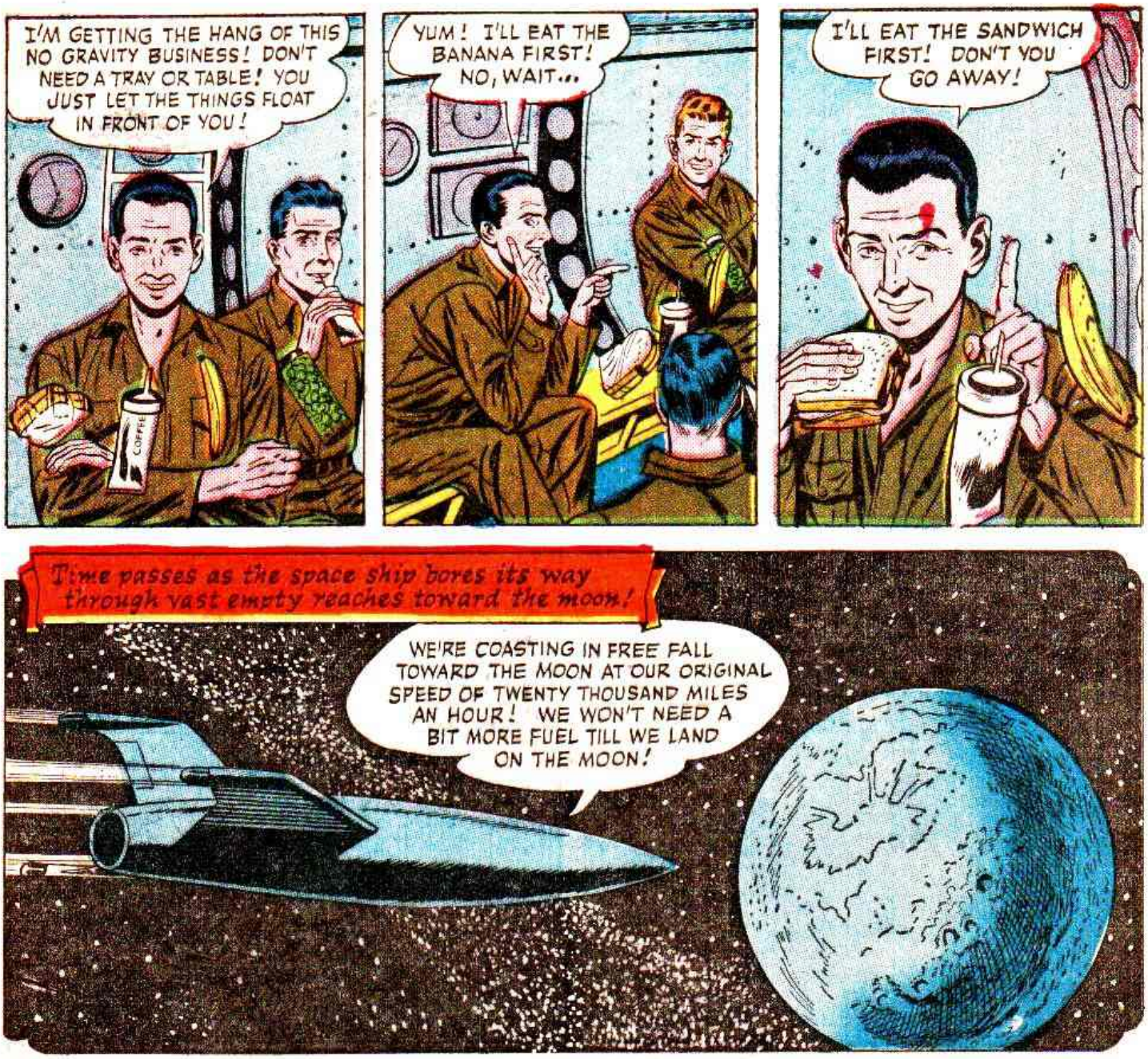
WHY? THIS ONE DIDN'T DROP TO THE FLOOR! NOTHING DROPS OR SPILLS DURING FREE FALL! EVERYTHING JUST FLOATS! SO TAKE IT!
WHADDYA KNOW? COULDN'T LOSE A COLLAR BUTTON IN THIS SHIP IF YOU TRIED!

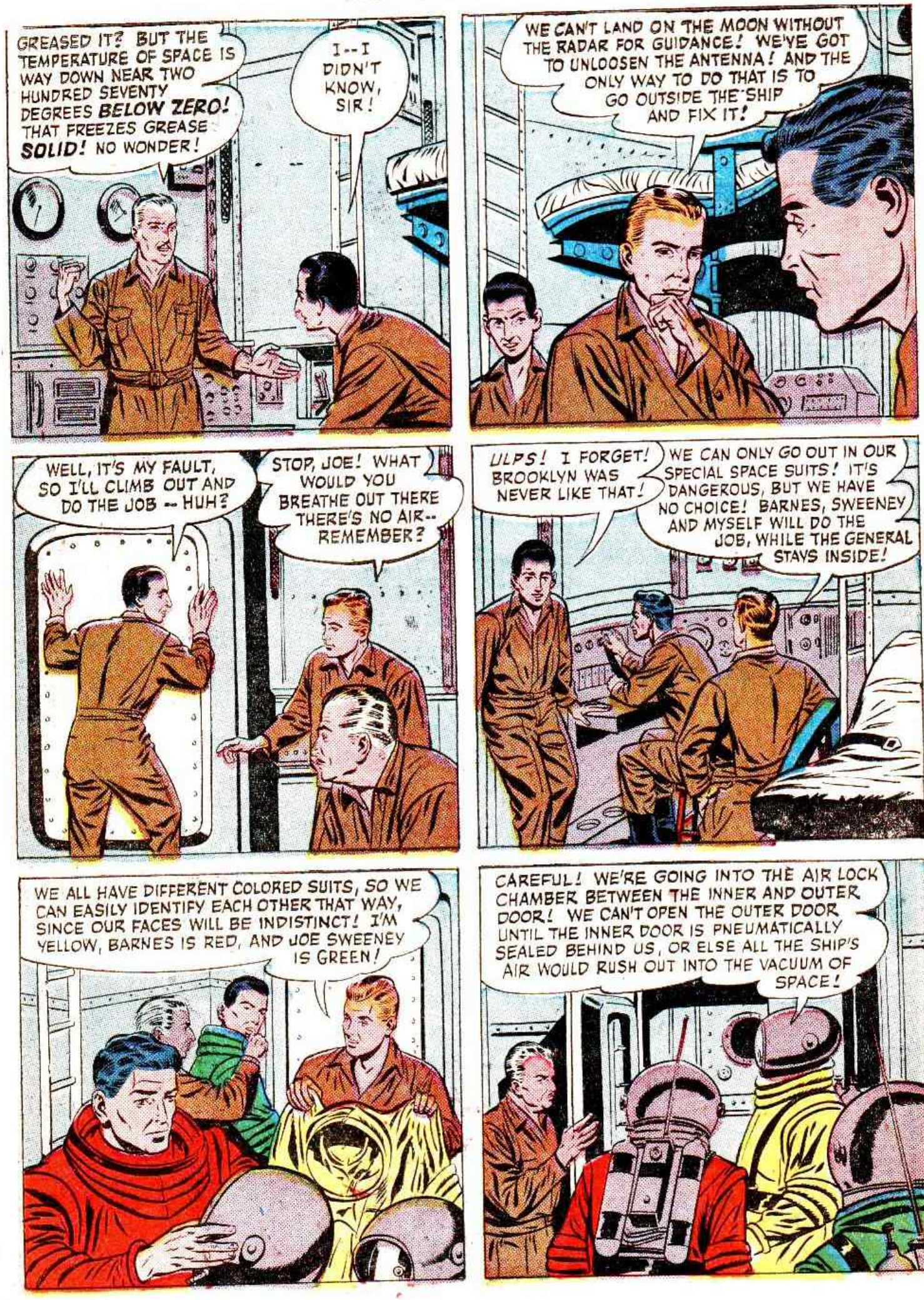
After they all take the pills...
THAT'S BETTER! BUT IT'S TIME NOW TO CONTACT EARTH BY RADIO AND REPORT ALL WELL!
RIGHT, GENERAL! CALLING DRY WELLS! CALLING DRY WELLS, EARTH! SPACE SHIP LUNA CALLING DRY WELLS, EARTH!

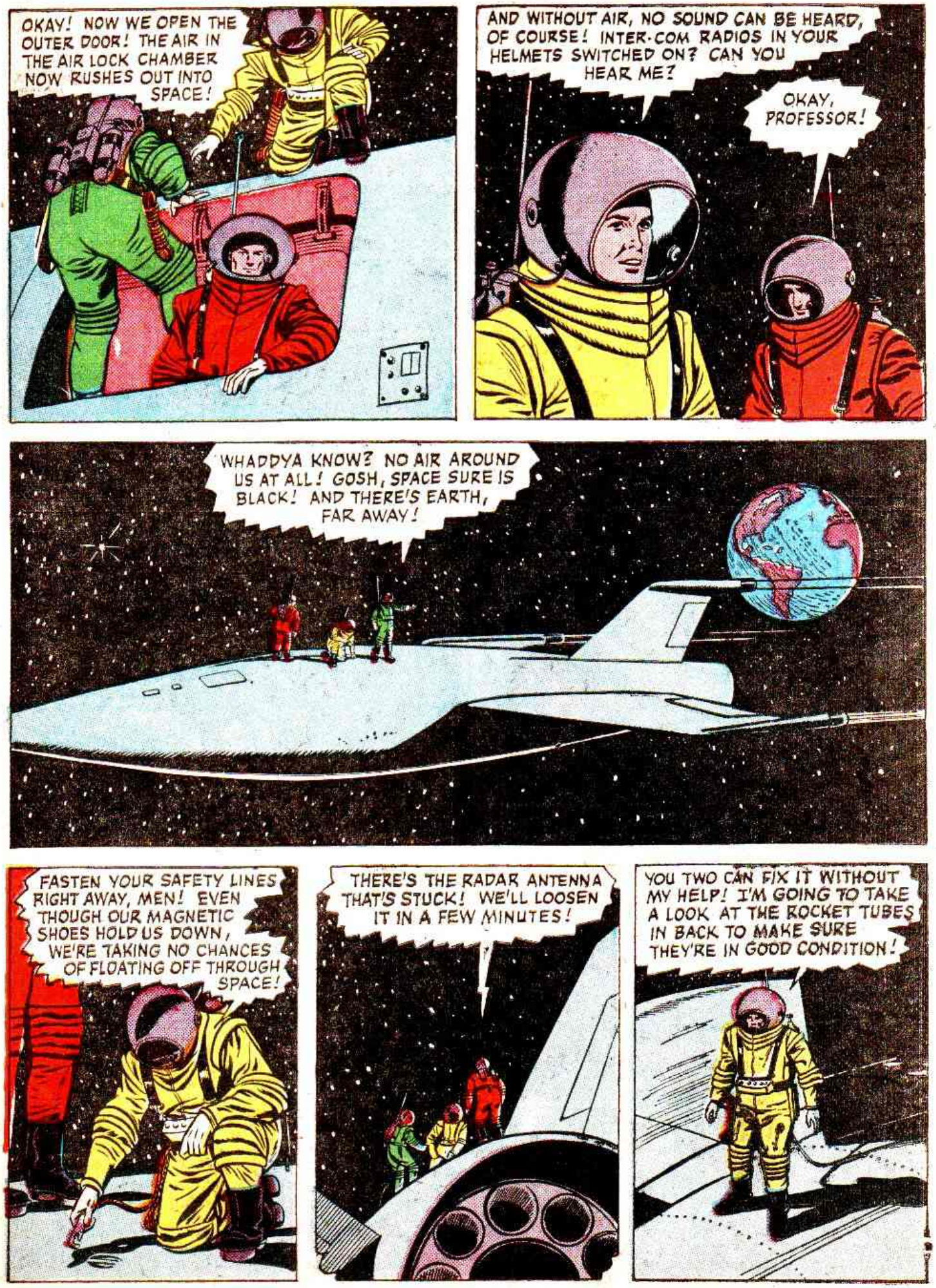
CONTACT STATION DRY WELLS CALLING! WE HEAR YOU! IS ALL OKAY?
ROGER! TAKE-OFF AND FLIGHT PLAN ON SCHEDULE! WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE MOON -- UNLESS THIS IS ALL A DREAM!

YES, WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE MOON! FOR YOU, PROFESSOR, THIS IS THE CULMINATION OF HALF YOUR LIFETIME!
AND FOR YOU, GENERAL, IT MEANS THAT THE ARMY BRASS-HATS ARE GOING TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU ON YOUR KNEES, FOR CALLING YOU A VISIONARY FOOL!

SAY, I'M HUNGRY! HOW ABOUT OUR FIRST MEAL IN SPACE?


I'M GETTING THE HANG OF THIS NO GRAVITY BUSINESS! DON'T NEED A TRAY OR TABLE! YOU JUST LET THE THINGS FLOAT IN FRONT OF YOU!
COFFEE
YUM! I'LL EAT THE BANANA FIRST! NO, WAIT...
I'LL EAT THE SANDWICH FIRST! DON'T YOU GO AWAY!
Time passes as the space ship bores its way through vast empty reaches toward the moon!
WE'RE COASTING IN FREE FALL TOWARD THE MOON AT OUR ORIGINAL SPEED OF TWENTY THOUSAND MILES AN HOUR! WE WON'T NEED A BIT MORE FUEL TILL WE LAND ON THE MOON!
YOU MEAN WE GET A FREE RIDE ALL THE REST OF THE WAY, FOR OVER TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND MILES?
YES! NEWTON'S FIRST LAW OF MOTION STATES THAT IN FREE SPACE, ANY OBJECT THAT IS MOVING KEEPS MOVING UNLESS IT IS STOPPED! AND THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP US--NO AIR OR ANYTHING!
WE'LL ONLY NEED FUEL AGAIN TO LAND ON THE MOON! BY THE WAY, LET'S CHECK OUR AUTOMATIC PILOT RADAR AERIAL NOW!
IT'S STUCK, PROFESSOR! WON'T CRANK OUT! BUT I GREASED IT GOOD BEFORE WE LEFT!


GREASED IT? BUT THE TEMPERATURE OF SPACE IS WAY DOWN NEAR TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY DEGREES BELOW ZERO! THAT FREEZES GREASE SOLID! NO WONDER!
I--I DIDN'T KNOW, SIR!
WE CAN'T LAND ON THE MOON WITHOUT THE RADAR FOR GUIDANCE! WE'VE GOT TO UNLOOSEN THE ANTENNA! AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT IS TO GO OUTSIDE THE SHIP AND FIX IT!
WELL, IT'S MY FAULT, SO I'LL CLIMB OUT AND DO THE JOB -- HUH?
STOP, JOE! WHAT WOULD YOU BREATHE OUT THERE THERE'S NO AIR-- REMEMBER?
ULPS! I FORGET! BROOKLYN WAS NEVER LIKE THAT!
WE CAN ONLY GO OUT IN OUR SPECIAL SPACE SUITS! IT'S DANGEROUS, BUT WE HAVE NO CHOICE! BARNES, SWEENEY AND MYSELF WILL DO THE JOB, WHILE THE GENERAL STAYS INSIDE!
WE ALL HAVE DIFFERENT COLORED SUITS, SO WE CAN EASILY IDENTIFY EACH OTHER THAT WAY, SINCE OUR FACES WILL BE INDISTINCT! I'M YELLOW, BARNES IS RED, AND JOE SWEENEY IS GREEN!
CAREFUL! WE'RE GOING INTO THE AIR LOCK CHAMBER BETWEEN THE INNER AND OUTER DOOR! WE CAN'T OPEN THE OUTER DOOR UNTIL THE INNER DOOR IS PNEUMATICALLY SEALED BEHIND US, OR ELSE ALL THE SHIP'S AIR WOULD RUSH OUT INTO THE VACUUM OF SPACE!


OKAY! NOW WE OPEN THE OUTER DOOR! THE AIR IN THE AIR LOCK CHAMBER NOW RUSHES OUT INTO SPACE!
AND WITHOUT AIR, NO SOUND CAN BE HEARD, OF COURSE! INTER-COM RADIOS IN YOUR HELMETS SWITCHED ON? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
OKAY, PROFESSOR!
WHADDYA KNOW? NO AIR AROUND US AT ALL! GOSH, SPACE SURE IS BLACK! AND THERE'S EARTH, FAR AWAY!
FASTEN YOUR SAFETY LINES RIGHT AWAY, MEN! EVEN THOUGH OUR MAGNETIC SHOES HOLD US DOWN, WE'RE TAKING NO CHANCES OF FLOATING OFF THROUGH SPACE!
THERE'S THE RADAR ANTENNA THAT'S STUCK! WE'LL LOOSEN IT IN A FEW MINUTES!
YOU TWO CAN FIX IT WITHOUT MY HELP! I'M GOING TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE ROCKET TUBES IN BACK TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE IN GOOD CONDITION!

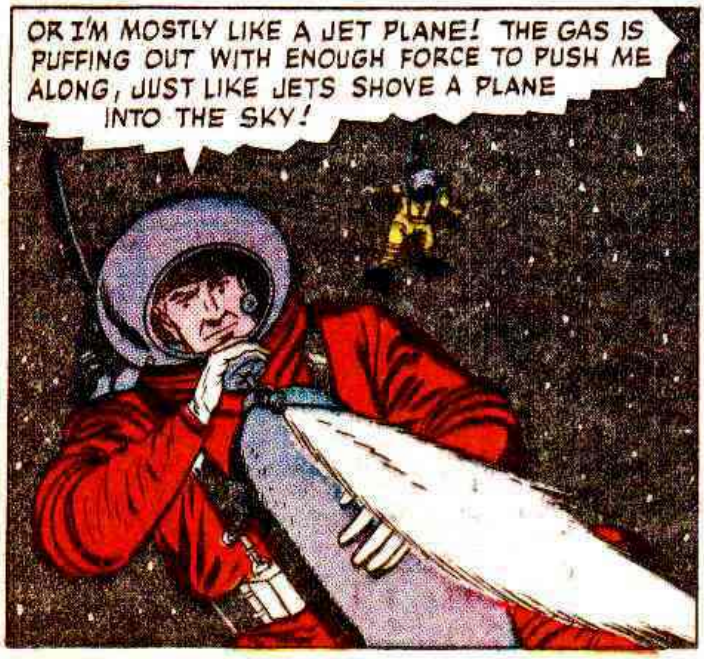
THE SAFETY LINE IS TOO SHORT TO LET ME SEE THE TUBES! WELL, MY MAGNETIC SHOES WILL HOLD ME THE REST OF THE WAY!
HMM! GUESS THE ROCKET TUBES HELD UP FINE!
I'LL RETURN NOW AND -- EH? I'M FLOATING! I FORGOT THAT WHILE I KNEELED, MY MAGNETIC SHOES LOST CONTACT WITH THE STEEL HULL!
BARNES! JOE! HELP! HURRY! I'M ADRIFT!
GREAT SCOTT!
HE CAN GRAB THIS LIFE-LINE --- I MISSED!
I'LL TRY AGAIN --- OMIGOSH! IT'S TOO SHORT NOW!
GOOD HEAVENS! THE PROFESSOR WILL KEEP FLOATING AWAY, SLOWLY BUT SURELY -- OUT INTO EMPTY SPACE!
WHAT A HORRIBLE WAY TO DIE -- ALONE IN SPACE! CAN'T WE DO SOMETHING TO SAVE HIM, BARNES?

YES! THERE'S ONE HOPE! GENERAL THAYER CAN HEAR US VIA INTER-COM RADIO! THAYER! PUT ON YOUR SPACE SUIT AND BRING OUT AN OXYGEN TANK! HURRY! LIFE AND DEATH FOR THE PROFESSOR!

SOON...
HERE IT IS, BARNES! BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

HOW CAN YOU USE A TANK OF COMPRESSED OXYGEN TO SAVE THE PROFESSOR?
REMEMBER THAT WOODY WOODPECKER CARTOON, GENERAL?

HE USED A SHOTGUN AND I'M USING A JET OF OXYGEN, BUT THE SAME PRINCIPLE IS BEING USED--- RECOIL OR REACTION!


OR I'M MOSTLY LIKE A JET PLANE! THE GAS IS PUFFING OUT WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO PUSH ME ALONG, JUST LIKE JETS SHOVE A PLANE INTO THE SKY!

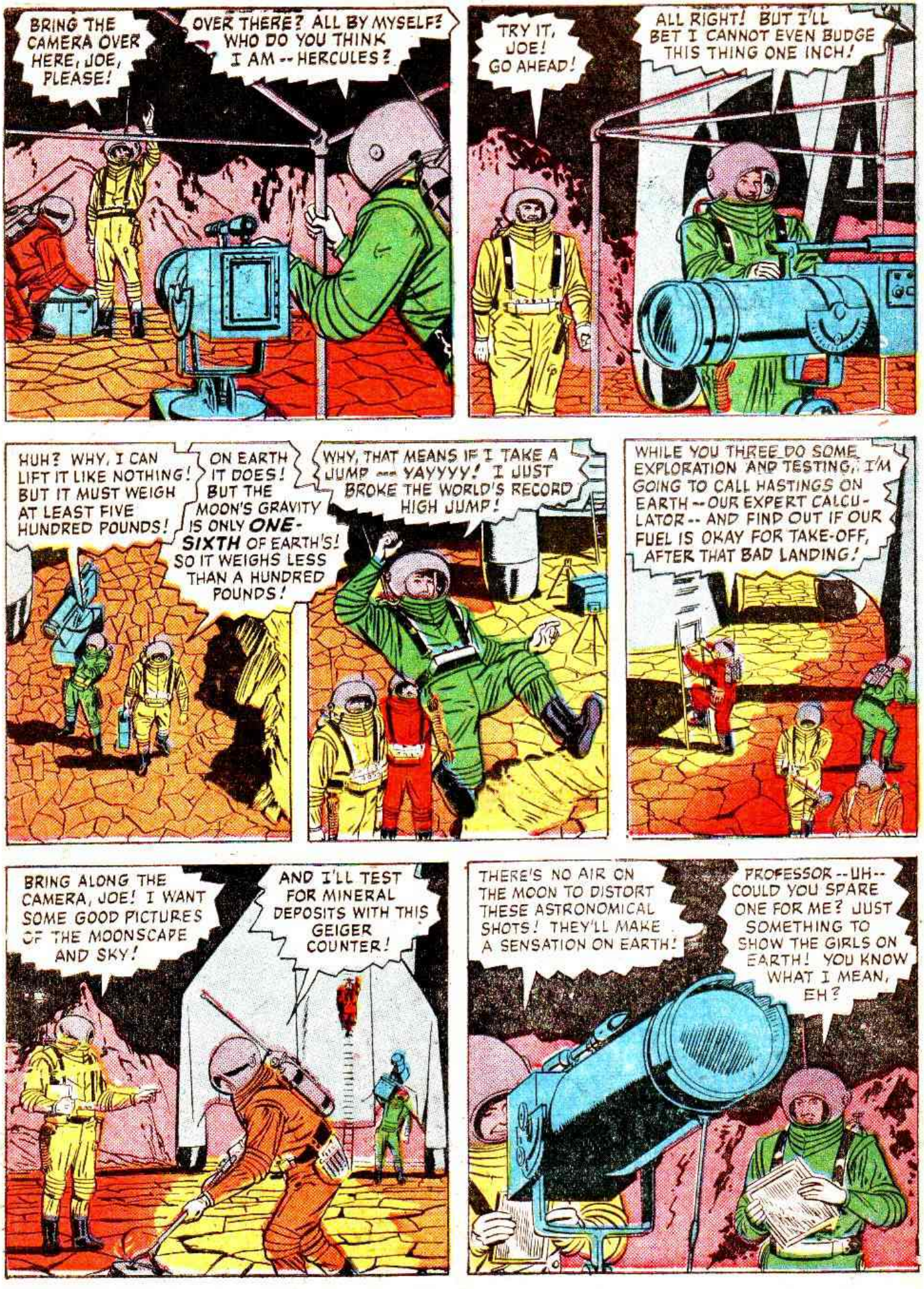
WONDERFUL, BARNES! YOUR QUICK THINKING SAVED ME BEFORE I DRIFTED TOO FAR FROM THE SHIP!
GRAB HANDS, PROFESSOR! NOW WE'LL RIDE THE OXYGEN TANK BACK!

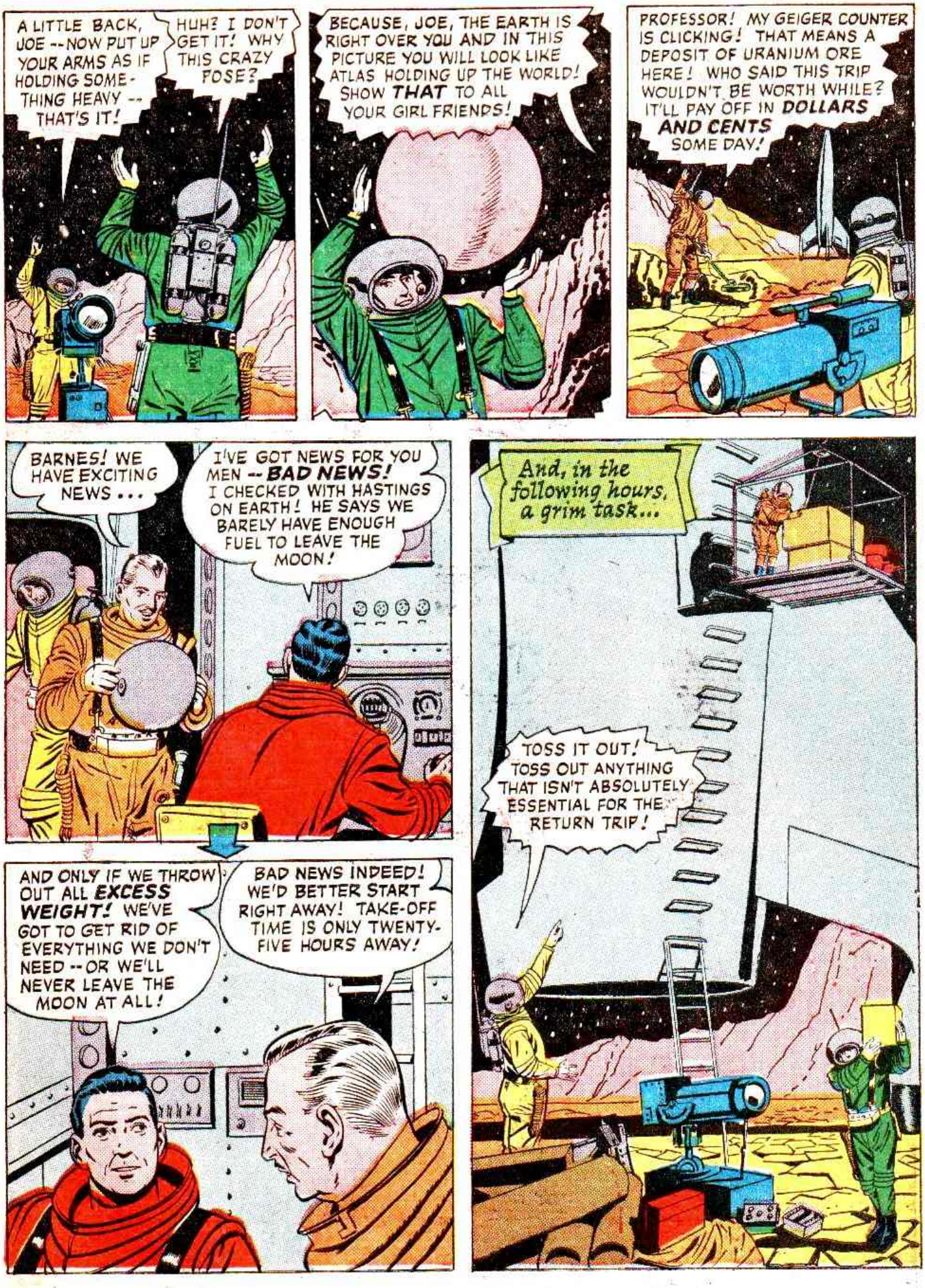
LET'S PRAY THAT THE OXYGEN HOLDS OUT! WE'RE AIMED A LITTLE CROOKED AND IF IT STOPS, WE'LL FLOAT PAST THEM!
THE TANK IS EMPTY!
BUT I CAN REACH YOU NOW WITH THE ROPE! GRAB IT!
SAFE!
QUOTE--"WHEW" --UNQUOTE!
But once back on the ship...
THAT WAS CLOSE! BUT FORGET IT NOW! WE'RE NEARING THE MOON! PREPARE FOR LANDING MANEUVERS!
THE MOON! AIRLESS, LIFELESS, UTTERLY DESOLATE! THE LANDING IS GOING TO BE DANGEROUS, AMONG THOSE JAGGED MOUNTAINS AND CRATERS!

FIRST, I'LL SHIFT THE GYROSCOPE WHICH POINTED US TOWARD THE MOON DURING THE TRIP! HANG ON, EVERYBODY!
THE SHIP IS SWINGING AROUND AROUND IN A HALF CIRCLE, SO THAT THE BACK OF THE ROCKET WILL POINT TOWARD THE MOON!
OH, MY STOMACH! BUT WHY ARE WE TURNING, PROFESSOR?
SO THAT THE ROCKETS WILL ACT AS A BRAKE AND SLOW US DOWN AS WE LAND ON THE MOON! ROCKETS ON!
BOARRRRR
DECELERATION IS A STRAIN, LIKE THE TAKE-OFF WAS, BUT IT'S NOT NEARLY AS BAD! NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS MISS ANY MOUNTAINS WHILE LANDING, AND FIND SOME SMOOTH AREA!
LOOK OUT --- MOUNTAINS!
WHEW! JUST MISSED 'EM!
IT'S ALL RUGGED AROUND HERE, UNLUCKILY! THE ONLY SMOOTH PLACE IS THE FLOOR OF THIS GIANT CRATER! GOT TO LAND HERE! READY FOR LANDING! IT'LL BE ROUGH!
UGH!
OOF!
OHH!
THUMP!

For a moment there is deathly silence...
But the crew is only stunned and, soon...
LANDING SUCCESSFUL! CUT GYROS! JACKS DOWN!
WE'RE SAFE ON THE MOON!
FINE LANDING, BARNES!
IT WAS A BAD ONE AND YOU KNOW IT! WE USED MORE FUEL THAN WE SHOULD HAVE! HOPE IT DIDN'T SHORT US FOR THE TAKE-OFF LATER!
FORGET THAT RIGHT NOW! WE'RE ON THE MOON, MEN! PROFESSOR, YOU AND BARNES PUT ON YOUR SPACE SUITS! YOU'LL HAVE THE HONOR OF FIRST STEPPING OUT ON THE MOON!
AND JOE! YOU RADIO WASHINGTON ON EARTH AND TELL THEM WE MADE THE MOON! THIS NEWS WILL ROCK THE WORLD!
SPACESHIP LUNA CALLING WASHINGTON!
Meanwhile...
THERE GOES OUR AUTOMATIC LADDER, DOWN TO THE GROUND! AND YOU GO DOWN FIRST, PROFESSOR!

YOU WILL HAVE THE HONOR OF BEING THE FIRST HUMAN BEING EVER TO SET FOOT ON THE MOON ITSELF!
WHAT AN HONOR! JUST TO THINK THAT ALL THROUGH FUTURE HISTORY NOW, IT WILL BE SAID THAT PROFESSOR CHARLES CARGRAVES FIRST SET FOOT ON THE MOON! THIS IS MY LIFETIME'S DREAM COME TRUE!
NOW, CLAIM IT, PROFESSOR, LIKE COLUMBUS CLAIMED AMERICA!
BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND IN THE NAME OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I TAKE POSSESSION OF THIS PLANET ON BEHALF OF AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MANKIND!
PROFESSOR! WASHINGTON CAME IN! THERE'S TERRIFIC EXCITEMENT ON EARTH! THEY'VE HOOKED UP ALL THE NETWORKS AND THEY WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE! GO AHEAD! I'VE HOOKED YOUR HELMET INTERCOM INTO THE CIRCUIT! ALL EARTH IS LISTENING -- GO AHEAD!
HELLO, EARTH! YES, WE ARE ON THE MOON! IT'S AN UTTERLY BARREN WORLD, DESOLATE AND SILENT! I CAN'T BEGIN TO DESCRIBE THE WEIRD MOONSCAPE! AND EARTH ITSELF, LOOKING LIKE A GIANT MOON, IS A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT FROM HERE!
A WORD FROM JIM BARNES NOW, TOO!
I CAN'T ADD MUCH TO WHAT THE PROFESSOR SAID, EXCEPT TO SAY THIS IS THRILLING BEYOND MEASURE! BUT WE'LL SIGN OFF NOW AS WE HAVE MANY THINGS TO DO BEFORE WE LEAVE AGAIN!
HERE COME THE GENERAL AND JOE SWEENEY WITH A SCHMIDT TELESCOPIC CAMERA TO TAKE PICTURES!


BRING THE CAMERA OVER HERE, JOE, PLEASE!
OVER THERE? ALL BY MYSELF? WHO DO YOU THINK I AM -- HERCULES?
TRY IT, JOE! GO AHEAD!
ALL RIGHT! BUT I'LL BET I CANNOT EVEN BUDGE THIS THING ONE INCH!
HUH? WHY, I CAN LIFT IT LIKE NOTHING! BUT IT MUST WEIGH AT LEAST FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS!
ON EARTH IT DOES! BUT THE MOON'S GRAVITY IS ONLY ONE-SIXTH OF EARTH'S! SO IT WEIGHS LESS THAN A HUNDRED POUNDS!
WHY, THAT MEANS IF I TAKE A JUMP --- YAYYYY! I JUST BROKE THE WORLD'S RECORD HIGH JUMP!
WHILE YOU THREE DO SOME EXPLORATION AND TESTING, I'M GOING TO CALL HASTINGS ON EARTH -- OUR EXPERT CALCULATOR -- AND FIND OUT IF OUR FUEL IS OKAY FOR TAKE-OFF, AFTER THAT BAD LANDING!
BRING ALONG THE CAMERA, JOE! I WANT SOME GOOD PICTURES OF THE MOONSCAPE AND SKY!
AND I'LL TEST FOR MINERAL DEPOSITS WITH THIS GEIGER COUNTER!
THERE'S NO AIR ON THE MOON TO DISTORT THESE ASTRONOMICAL SHOTS! THEY'LL MAKE A SENSATION ON EARTH!
PROFESSOR -- UH -- COULD YOU SPARE ONE FOR ME? JUST SOMETHING TO SHOW THE GIRLS ON EARTH! YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, EH?


A LITTLE BACK, JOE -- NOW PUT UP YOUR ARMS AS IF HOLDING SOMETHING HEAVY -- THAT'S IT!
HUH? I DON'T GET IT! WHY THIS CRAZY POSE?
BECAUSE, JOE, THE EARTH IS RIGHT OVER YOU AND IN THIS PICTURE YOU WILL LOOK LIKE ATLAS HOLDING UP THE WORLD! SHOW THAT TO ALL YOUR GIRL FRIENDS!
PROFESSOR! MY GEIGER COUNTER IS CLICKING! THAT MEANS A DEPOSIT OF URANIUM ORE HERE! WHO SAID THIS TRIP WOULDN'T BE WORTH WHILE? IT'LL PAY OFF IN DOLLARS AND CENTS SOME DAY!
BARNES! WE HAVE EXCITING NEWS...
I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU MEN -- BAD NEWS! I CHECKED WITH HASTINGS ON EARTH! HE SAYS WE BARELY HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO LEAVE THE MOON!
AND ONLY IF WE THROW OUT ALL EXCESS WEIGHT! WE'VE GOT TO GET RID OF EVERYTHING WE DON'T NEED -- OR WE'LL NEVER LEAVE THE MOON AT ALL!
BAD NEWS INDEED! WE'D BETTER START RIGHT AWAY! TAKE-OFF TIME IS ONLY TWENTY-FIVE HOURS AWAY!
And, in the following hours, a grim task...
TOSS IT OUT! TOSS OUT ANYTHING THAT ISN'T ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR THE RETURN TRIP!

But as take-off time draws near...
WE'VE THROWN OUT ALMOST TWO AND A HALF TONS OF STUFF! BUT WE HAVE TO STRIP OUT ANOTHER ONE HUNDRED TEN POUNDS-- OR WE CAN'T LEAVE THE MOON!
ONE HUNDRED TEN POUNDS? BUT GOSH, THE ONLY THING LEFT TO THROW OUT IS STUFF IN OUR POCKETS--AND THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH! WHAT'LL WE DO?
Four men look at one another with but a single dread thought!
THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER-- A MAN'S WEIGHT IS OVER ONE HUNDRED TEN POUNDS! ONE OF US HAS TO STAY BEHIND ON THE MOON!
IT'LL BE ME, OF COURSE! I'M THE OLDEST AND MOST USELESS...
NO, GENERAL THAYER! I'VE HAD MY GREAT MOMENT OF GLORY, DISCOVERING THE MOON! I'LL STAY!
YOU'RE BOTH WRONG! I'M THE OFFICIAL CHIEF PILOT AND SKIPPER, SO I'M IN COMMAND! I COMMAND YOU ALL TO LEAVE, WHILE I STAY BEHIND!
I OBJECT!
HOLD IT, YOU GUYS! NO SENSE QUARRELING OVER WHO'S GOING TO BE THE HERO! THE ONLY FAIR THING IS TO DRAW LOTS!
JOE IS RIGHT! WE'LL DRAW LOTS! LOSER STAYS! LET'S GO UP IN THE SHIP!
I HAD TO SEARCH FOR THESE BUTTONS TO MATCH! BUT WE'RE READY TO DRAW LOTS NOW!
WAIT! SWEENEY IS GONE! HE SNEAKED AWAY FROM THE SHIP!

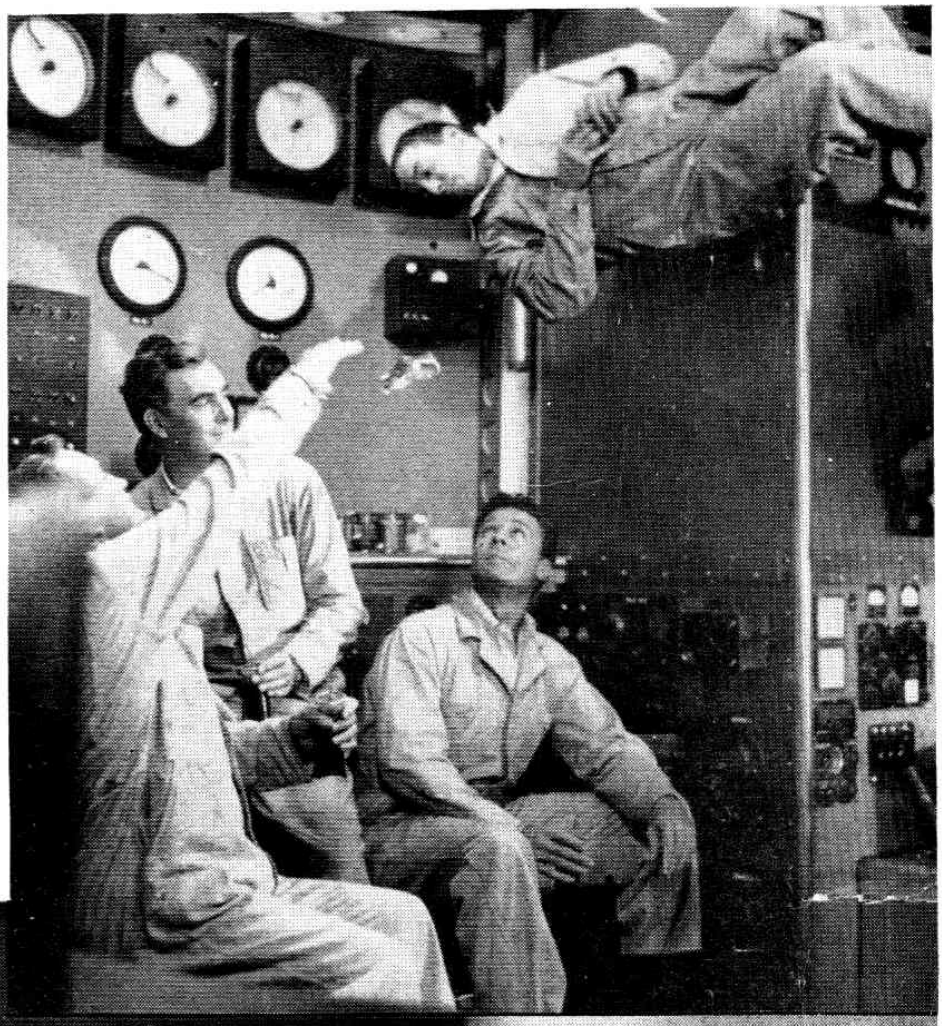
SWEENEY! COME BACK!
GOODBYE, FELLAS! HAPPY TRIP HOME! JUST DO ONE THING FOR ME--REMEMBER ME TO ALL THE GIRLS--ALL THE GIRLS ON EARTH!
THE FOOL! THE GLORIOUS, WONDERFUL, HEROIC FOOL! WE TRICKED HIM INTO THE TRIP IN THE FIRST PLACE! NOW HE'S WILLING TO GIVE UP HIS LIFE TO LET US RETURN SAFELY TO EARTH! BROOKLYN CAN BE PROUD OF HIM!
WAIT! WE WON'T LET HIM STAY HERE AND DIE! I JUST FIGURED OUT A WAY TO GET US ALL SAFELY BACK TO EARTH! LISTEN, JOE! WE CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT THE RADIO AND IF WE GET RID OF YOUR SPACE SUIT AND MAGNETIC SHOES, BEFORE YOU COME BACK IN, WE'LL BE OKAY! NOW, HERE'S WHAT YOU DO...
ALL RIGHT, JOE! TOSS OUT YOUR SUIT, RADIO EQUIPMENT AND SHOES! YOU'LL BE WITHOUT AIR FOR A MINUTE OR TWO, BUT WE'LL GET YOU INSIDE BEFORE YOU SUFFOCATE! READY?
R-READY?
HE'S IN! I GUESS WE TOOK UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF HIM -- BUT -- HE'S SAFE NOW -- WE'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU DID FOR US, JOE!
NOW WE CAN TAKE OFF SAFELY! HERE WE GO!
WE'RE OFF! BACK TO GOOD OLD EARTH!
RROARRRRR!

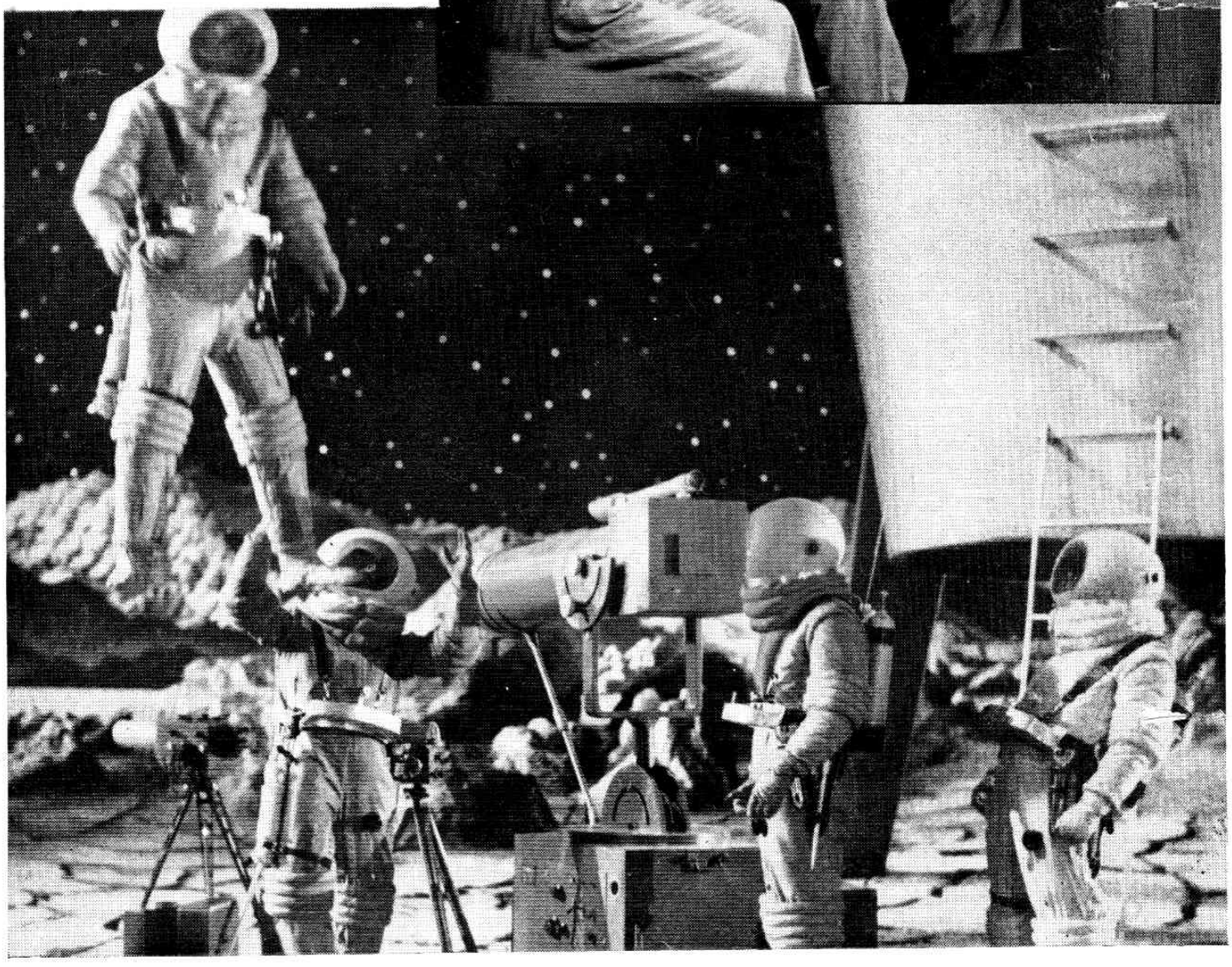
LUCKILY, SINCE THE MOON'S GRAVITY IS SO LIGHT, WE DON'T HAVE TO USE NEARLY AS MUCH POWER TO LEAVE!
Later...
WITH MY COMMUNICATIONS STUFF ALL TOSSED OUT, I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO! HO HUM! AND THIS RETURN TRIP IS OLD STUFF NOW!
AND SOON, BACK ON EARTH--
WHEEEEE!
YAYYYYY!
HURRAY FOR THE SPACESHIP LUNA AND ITS BRAVE CREW!
DADDY! DADDY!
HE CAME BACK! HE CAME BACK!

STARTLING SCIENTIFIC THRILLS

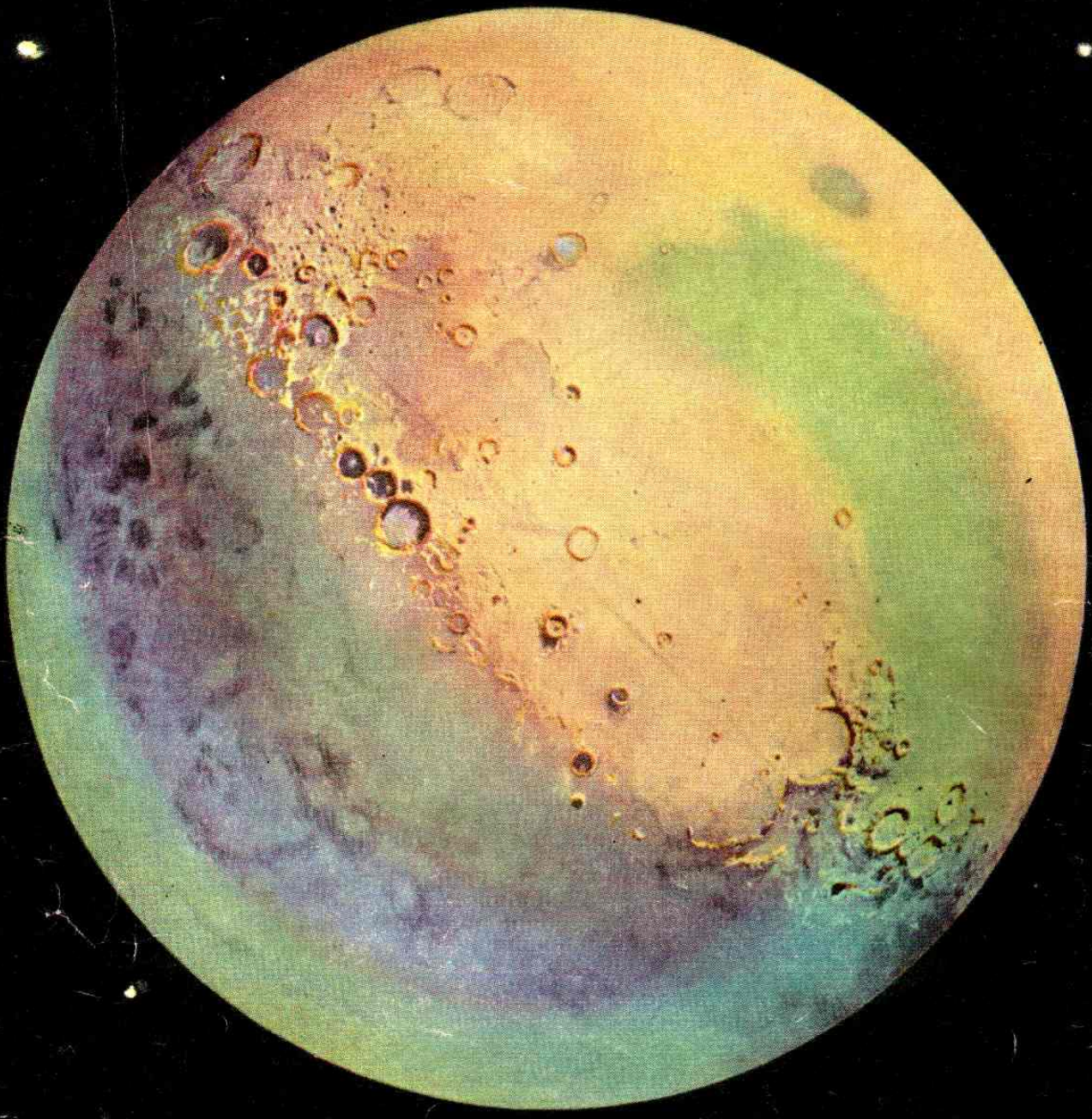
PACK

DESTINATION MOON





DON'T MISS —



DESTINATION MOON

GEORGE PAL'S TECHNICOLOR PRODUCTION

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